



HOW I HOAXED NEW YORK
William Boyd
talks to
John Walsh
MAGAZINE



**NUREYEV,
THE GREATEST
MALE DANCER**
Why his legend
should be left alone

ARTS, PAGE 18



THEY CAN'T SAY NO
Why some gay
men come
unstuck

FEATURES, PAGE 16



THEY DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE
David Aaronovitch
on being third class
on the Titanic

COMMENT, PAGE 21

THE INDEPENDENT

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Saturday 11 April 1998 70p (IR70p) No 3,582

Blair, Ahern and Mitchell seal historic agreement 17 hours after passing of talks deadline

Peace at last for Ulster

By David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

THE people of Northern Ireland were promised peace yesterday as an historic agreement offered a way out of 30 years of violent conflict.

After a night and day of drama, the exhausted politicians hammered out last minute differences and produced a potentially ground-breaking document. Tony Blair, the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and the talks chairman George Mitchell sealed the deal at 5pm yesterday, 17 hours after the original deadline for an agreement.

A great many loose ends remain and many political obstacles lie ahead, but the sense that a new beginning had been made was palpable both at the talks themselves and on the streets of Belfast. A woman who walked through the city centre said: "I saw people with tears in their eyes. I shed a few myself."

They were tears of relief rather than of victory, for the agreement produced yesterday was composed of scores of compromises stitched together in a 69-page document combining points made by the two governments and the eight parties at the table.

Minutes after the deal was agreed, Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, appeared on the steps of Stormont Castle to declare victory.

"I believe today courage has triumphed. I said when I arrived here on Wednesday night that I felt the hand of history upon us. Today I hope that the burden of history can at long last start to be lifted from our shoulders," he said.

"It will take more of the courage we have shown, but it needn't mean more of the pain."

He said all that the people of Northern Ireland wanted was to live without fear but the agreement was only the beginning.

"Today we have just a sense of the prize that is before us. The work to win that prize goes on. We cannot, we must not let it slip."

Mr Blair said that the agreement enshrined fairness and equality for the population of Northern Ireland. But he said: "This will not work unless we extend a hand of friendship to those who were our foes."

Echoing these sentiments, Bertie Ahern, the Irish prime minister, said the agreement was about the promise of a brighter future. "Today we hope a line can be drawn under a bloody past."

It would mean the radical transformation of all the key relationships in the island and a process of continuing change on the ground, but he said: "Equality, co-operation and

Mr Mitchell praised Mr Blair and Mr Ahern for their efforts. At a final session, he spoke of the "remarkable experience" of his involvement in the peace process.

He said: "I have that bitter-sweet feeling that comes in life. I am dying to leave but I hate to go."

"I have been all over the world and I have never been any place where there are better people."

The agreement is still not final since two of the most important elements involved, the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein, must sell it to grassroots which will include many with doubts about the new course of give and take which it sketches out.

But it represents a triumph for almost all involved, in particular the local representatives who made a successful transition from the politics of demand to the politics of negotiation. Their next task will take them into the politics of marketing, and eventually of co-operation.

The official talks deadline had been set as midnight on Thursday but with no agreement in sight at that point bargaining went on through the night. It was not until late afternoon that an agreed text was completed.

Some final hours of delay were caused when the Ulster Unionists indicated concerns on a number of points. Reports circulated that senior party members were split on the advisability of signing up for the deal, with speculation that hard-liners were fighting a rearguard action.

The deal will set up an intricate structure based around a new Belfast assembly linked to a new north-south institution, together with new connections to the devolved assemblies in Cardiff and Edinburgh.

The document also envisages moves towards the release of paramilitary prisoners, including the increasing or remission from the present one-half to two-thirds.

partnership threatens nobody."

"If the focus remains in the past, the past will become the future and that is something no one desires ... Today's agreement is a victory for peace and democratic politics. We must seize the initiative."

However, Mr Ahern added that his ultimate political aspiration remained the coming together of all the people of Ireland "achieved peacefully and with consent".

David Trimble, of the Ulster Unionist Party, said they had been concerned that the new assembly would have allowed parties related to the paramilitaries to get close to the heart of the administration. But, he said, they had been reassured.

"It will take more of the courage we have shown, but it needn't mean more of the pain."

He said all that the people of Northern Ireland wanted was to live without fear but the agreement was only the beginning.

Four feared dead in floods havoc

By Kate Watson-Smyth

ONE PERSON was drowned and three more, including a 14-year-old boy, were missing yesterday as torrential rain brought the worst flooding for a century to parts of Britain.

The body of a middle-aged man was recovered from a flooded caravan park on the banks of the Avon near Evesham, after the floods left hundreds of people homeless.

Police and firefighters carried out a series of rescue operations across the Midlands, Buckinghamshire and Oxford-

shire as forecasters predicted more rain at the start of the Easter weekend.

Norman Edgington, regional manager of the National Rivers Authority, said: "The flooding in the river Avon area is the worst since records began in 1900 - the river is 15 metres above its normal level."

Firefighters worked round the clock to save people from the River Mead Caravan Park, in Worcestershire, after the river Arrow rose by four metres during the middle of the night and the site was engulfed.

Families huddled together

on top of their caravans as water swept through the park, reaching roof level in some parts. Some were winched to safety by helicopter and others by boat.

One rescue boat struck a submerged tractor and the two firemen and four caravanners were tipped into the swirling water in the pitch darkness. They were eventually found by another rescue boat but two residents were still unaccounted for last night.

David O'Dwyer, chief of Hereford and Worcester fire service, said all of the brigade's

800 firefighters worked round the clock to rescue people.

"The water on the caravan sites was at least six feet deep in places and the river speed is running at 11 knots which is extremely fast," he said.

In Warwickshire, rescue teams were yesterday searching for a 14-year-old boy who disappeared when a van was swept from a flooded road into a ditch at Eathorpe, near Leamington Spa.

The van was washed into the ditch as it tried to overtake broken down vehicles stranded in floodwater. It was quickly sub-

merged but the driver managed to climb on to the roof and was eventually rescued by a police officer.

The boy could not be found however. Steve West, Warwickshire Ambulance Service's director of operations, described as "desperate" and said they feared the worst.

Hopes were also fading for a 33-year-old woman believed to have fallen from a narrow boat on a flooded river in Northampton.

More than 300 people were rescued from their homes and moved to emergency centres in

Buckingham and Banbury, Oxfordshire, where the torrential rain caused the river Cherwell and the Oxford Canal to merge.

An RAF Sea King helicopter was called out to rescue 19 anglers who became stranded in the middle of a lake near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, after the water level rose by 9ft in an hour.

Thousands of rail passengers endured delays of more than six hours when flash flooding hit train services through Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and around Milton Keynes.

Photograph: page 4

Small-minded designers put tall people's backs up

By Clare Garner

TALL people may stand out in the crowd, but they are still being overlooked. Beds are too short, doorways and desks too low, bus and train seats too cramped - and consequently Britain is losing an estimated 70 million working days each year.

Members of Britain's Tall Person's Club are bearing down on the country's midget-minded manufacturers, demanding that they update their standard sizes.

Phil Heimricy, the 6ft 8in founder of the club, set out to improve life for society's tallest individuals, but the fact that the population as a whole is growing - taller, that is - means height discrimination is a matter for more of us than we might think.

Every generation grows at the rate

of approximately 0.75 inches, yet the standards with which people have to contend on a daily basis are in many cases between 50 to 100 years old.

This country loses 70 million working days each year because of backache, and much of that is caused by design which does not take this growth into account. The situation will get worse unless standards are changed."

The club is preparing to host the annual European Convention for Tall People between 17 and 24 May at various venues across London.

If you knew how
much you're
being overcharged
for life cover,
the shock
could kill you.

If you took out your life cover a while ago either to protect your mortgage or your family's lifestyle, you could be paying well over the odds.

But now that Direct Line provides life cover, you don't have to pay through the nose anymore. In fact, in only 10 minutes, you could be enjoying the same protection you enjoy now, for a much smaller monthly cost.

All it takes is one
call - we'll even fill the
forms in for you.

If you want life
cover at a price that
won't shock you, call
Direct Line today.



0845 3000 233

Call anytime 8am to 8pm weekdays
and 9am to 5pm Saturdays.

DIRECT LINE LIFE INSURANCE
© 1998 Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited. Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Direct Line Life Insurance Company Limited is a member of the Direct Line Group. Direct Line Group is a registered trademark of Direct Line Group plc and used with its permission.

Inquiry call after death of casualty patient

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THE PARENTS of a boy who died from a fractured skull after a hospital allegedly refused to examine him because he was abusive and violent have called for a public inquiry into his death.

Gordon-Sco Niven, 16, was taken to Glasgow's Victoria In-

firmery after falling off his mountain bike, but while waiting to be examined he became abusive and hospital staff called police.

He was arrested and later examined by a police surgeon who suspected a serious injury and returned him to hospital.

A brain scan confirmed that he had a fractured skull, and he

was transferred to the neurological unit at Southern General Hospital. But he slipped into a coma and by the following morning he was diagnosed as brain dead. The next day his parents, Gordon and Pat agreed to turn off his life support machine.

David Wilson, the family's solicitor, said the Procurator Fiscal had now finished his report

on Gordon's death and submitted it to the Lord Advocate who will decide if there should be a fatal accident inquiry.

A spokesman for the hospital said: "Obviously the hospital's thoughts are with the family following this tragedy. However, while patient care is our priority we have a duty to protect our staff and must call

the police when patients become violent and abusive."

The accident happened on 23 September when Gordon was out riding his bicycle with a friend near his home in the Shirelands district of Glasgow. Mr Wilson said he was trying to do tricks on a ramp when he fell off and hit his head.

"He started behaving very

erratically when he arrived at the hospital but that can be a characteristic of head injuries," he said.

"It is alleged that he assaulted a nurse and said that he had been drinking alcohol, but Mrs Niven told the doctor that her son did not drink.

"The consultant said he was fit to be arrested and he was tak-

en to a police cell where he was left in a cell for an hour-and-a-half."

Mr Wilson said it was clearly five hours after the accident before Gordon had a brain scan and was transferred to the neurological unit.

"It is accepted that the boy was behaving erratically but having him arrested was not the

answer. He had an injury that proved to be fatal and he had a right to treatment. Gordon died in very traumatic circumstances and his last hours must have been terrifying," he said.

"His parents find it hard to believe that there was no negligence given that there was a failure to diagnose and a failure to treat."

Welsh clerics will report sex abusers

By Roger Dobson

MORE than 8,000 clergy and members of the Church in Wales have signed a child protection declaration that they will agree to police checks designed to weed out paedophiles.

Child protection panels have been set up in each of the dioceses, and later this month the Church in Wales governing body will hear a report which says that clergy who hear confessions should make the welfare of children paramount.

"Matters of conflicting loyalty or responsibility, such as the seat of the confessional, should be clarified, in discussions with the bishop if necessary," says a report prepared for the governing body.

It adds, "Evidence or suggestions of physical abuse, neglect, emotional or sexual abuse in a child should never be ignored. This may include evidence of bruises, challenging behaviour, co-constant hunger, inadequate clothing or supervision, or involvement in child pornography."

It goes on, "Every individual

has a responsibility to report immediate, serious concerns about the care of a child urgently to the proper authorities, usually social services. Any rumours concerned child protection issues must be dealt with urgently."

Church spokesman, the Rev David Williams, said recently: "The report is making the point that the welfare of the child transcends everything else. The declaration people have signed says that they are not aware of anything in their past backgrounds that makes them unsuitable to work with children, and giving permission for a police check to make sure there is no record of a conviction."

In the child protection document, the church says that every parish has a duty to provide a safe environment for children by ensuring that any disclosure, discovery or suspicion of abuse is dealt with in an appropriate way.

Bishops are responsible for appointing diocesan child protection officers who will set up child protection groups made up of six to eight professionals.

CONTENTS

News	2-10	Unit trusts	23
Foreign	11-15	Your Money	24-27
Features	16,17	The back page	28
Arts	18	Sport	Time Off, 17-28
Leader & letters	20	Crosswords	Time Off, 28 &
Comment	21	TV & radio	The Eye
Obituaries	19		

Caravan boy killed by gas

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD boy died of carbon monoxide poisoning in a Scottish seaside caravan park, police said. Gary Stewart, from the West Port area of Dundee, on holiday with his grandparents, was discovered by relatives yesterday at Sealine Caravan Park in Arbroath, Tayside.

Police are not treating the death as suspicious. It is believed the boy and his

grandparents arrived shortly before the tragedy and were renting the caravan locally. The owner of the park arrived at the scene around 2pm yesterday with a police inspector but declined to comment.

Later it emerged that the youngster's grandparents, who have not been named, are in Strathclyde Hospital in Bute.

The grandmother was taken

to hospital when he suffered a heart attack after his grandson's body was discovered. The family had been intending to stay in the caravan over the Easter weekend.

Health and Safety Executive inspectors were at the scene. A spokesman said: "The ... executive are investigating and will submit a report to the Procurator Fiscal."

Freedom blow for jailed soldiers

A CAMPAIGN for the early release of two Scots Guards serving life sentences for the murder of a civilian in Belfast suffered a setback yesterday after a council banned a march.

More than 100 veterans from the regiment planned to stage the demonstration in Glasgow city centre to support of Mark Wright, from Arbroath and Jim Fisher from Ayr, who were jailed in 1992 for the mur-

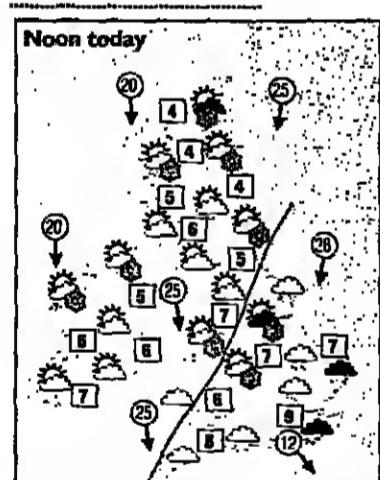
der of Peter McBride. Mr McBride was shot and killed when he ran away from the soldiers after they stopped him for questioning.

Bill Ritchie, 63, a former Scots Guard, who was hoping to organise the event for 25 April, criticised Glasgow City Council for blocking the rally. He said: "We are very disappointed ... We saw this as a peaceful demonstration, but

the council said it did not want to get involved in Northern Ireland issues, and it is them not us who have turned this into a political demonstration."

A council spokesman said the decision not to grant permission had been taken on police advice. He said there was "blanket ban" on Northern Ireland demonstrations in the city centre, but organisers had been offered an alternative venue.

WEATHER



British Isles weather

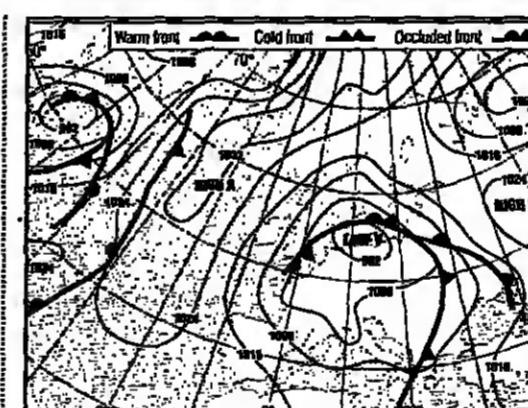
most recent available figures at noon local time

Cloudy: Cloudy; Fair: Fair; Haze: Hazy; Misty: Misty; Sunny: Sunny; Showers: Showers; Thunder: Thunder

World weather

most recent available figures at noon local time

Cloudy: Cloudy; Fair: Fair; Haze: Hazy; Misty: Misty; Sunny: Sunny; Showers: Showers; Thunder: Thunder



Atlantic chart, noon today

Low pressure will continue to drift slowly east and weaken. High pressure will start to shift south, maintaining its intensity. High pressure will move eastwards.



Air quality

Yesterday's readings

Location	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀
London	Moderate	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

Outlook for today

Location	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀
London	Mod	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

High tides

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	02:38	7.0	14:58	7.1
Liverpool	12:05	9.1	00:21	9.1
Avalonmouth	08:00	12.7	20:19	12.8
Hall (Albert Dock)	07:10	8.2	19:18	8.5
Greenock	01:27	3.0	13:21	3.2
Dun Laoghaire	12:25	3.9	00:34	3.8

INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

Jeep originated the 4x4 species. In the 57 years since, this pioneering off-roader has survived all kinds of conditions, environments and rivalry to remain king of all 4x4 surveys.

The secret of its longevity? Adaptability. Evolutions include a more refined suspension, improved handling and driver and front passenger air bags. Not to mention low ratio gears for superb off road performance.

(It's equally impressive on road. The 4.0 litre does 0-60 in 8.8 seconds.)

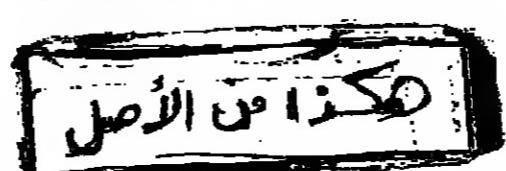
Prices start at £14,220 for the 2.5 litre Wrangler Sport. A small price to pay to avoid extinction.

Jeep
THAT'S ONLY ONE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0800 616159.

THE JEEP WRANGLER RANGE: 2.5 LITRE SPORT £14,220, 4.0 LITRE SPORT £15,720, 4.0 LITRE SAHARA £17,875, 4.0 LITRE SAHARA AUTO £18,520. HALF DOORS AVAILABLE AS AN ACCESSORY. ALL PRICES ARE ON THE ROAD AND INCLUDE 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE (£105) AND £25 REGISTRATION FEE. PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. SEND COUPON TO JEEP INFORMATION SERVICE, FREEPOST 1048, SANDWICH, KENT CT13 8RR.

MR/MRS/MISS/MS (initials)..... SURNAME..... ADDRESS..... POSTCODE..... PHONE HOME..... PHONE BUSINESS..... WA1504-04





Water pressure: A caravan park at Abbots Salford, Worcestershire, yesterday after rain brought the worst flooding for a century to parts of Britain. More rain is predicted at the start of the Easter weekend

Steel to leave Lords for seat in Scots Parliament

By Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

LORD Steel of Alkwood, last leader of the old Liberal Party, yesterday announced that he would be standing for election to the Scottish Parliament.

As one of those who co-chaired the cross-party constitutional convention which drew up plans for Scottish devolution, he could be a prize contender for the speakership of the new Parliament. Yesterday, he said that since last year's referendum vote, he had been "like a man perched on each shoulder - one telling him to stay in the Lords; the other urging him to see out his dream of devolution and

stand for the Scottish Parliament. "The second bird has won," he said. "Tomorrow, I shall lodge my application to go on the Liberal Democrat list for the Lothian Region."

Lord Steel, who once urged the old Liberal Party to prepare itself for general-election victory, also predicted success for the Liberal Democrats in the Scottish elections. "The beauty of a proportional system is that every vote counts," he said. "There is no such thing as a so-called wasted vote. We should be able to gather a harvest in hitherto infertile territory. For Scottish Liberal Democrats the opportunities in the new Parliament are especially exciting."

"We are likely to experience consensus and coalition politics rather than a replication of the Westminster adversarial system. So what are the likely conditions? Labour and Tory? Labour and SNP? Tory and SNP? It is surely more likely that the Lib Dems will be part of any equation." Lord Steel, 60, said Scotland was about to address a wrong committed in 1707 when, in creating the Union, the Scottish Parliament was abolished.

Lord Steel's announcement boosts the Scottish Liberal Democrats, who go into the elections as third-place also-rans according to the latest System Three opinion poll in last Wednesday's Glasgow paper, *The Herald*. If put Labour and the SNP level-pegging at 40 per centage points, with the Liberal Democrats on 10, and 8 for the Tories. Those figures would leave Labour six seats short of a majority in the 129-seat legislature, but if the Liberal Democrats won the basic 10 seats they would get from the System Three polling result, they could hold the balance of power-blocking the Scottish Nationalists' plan to hold a further referendum on complete independence in the event of an SNP majority in the new Parliament.

Readers raise nearly £83,000

By Michael Greenwood



THE Independent's Iraq Appeal
has raised nearly £83,000 to help treat more than 2,000 children suffering from leukaemia believed by many to be caused by weapons used during the Gulf war.

Care International and Medical Aid for Iraqi Children, who are working with *The Independent*, have drawn up a list of medicines needed by doctors in Iraq. Once this list is confirmed with Iraqi health officials the drugs will be bought - the British government and the UN sanctions committee have agreed to authorise the export of the consignment as quickly as possible.

The medicines will then be shipped to the Jordanian port of Aqaba and transported to Baghdad by refrigerated trucks - the no-fly zone over Iraq makes this the quickest available route. While the bulk of medicines will go to doctors working in the capital, hospitals in Basra and Mosul will also receive supplies.

Will Day, National Director

Seven held by police after £10m seizure of cocaine

SEVEN people arrested after the seizure by Dutch police of more than £10m of cocaine destined for the UK were still being questioned by Customs and Excise yesterday.

The six men and one woman, from the Manchester area, were held in dawn raids by officers from the National Criminal Investigation Service who also recovered 5kg of heroin valued at £500,000. They are being questioned about 100kg of cocaine found in a Rotterdam hotel room after an Anglo-Dutch operation, codenamed Ukelele. A Briton arrested in Rotterdam was being questioned by Dutch police.

Mobile phone attack

POLICE were yesterday hunting a man who attacked a retired church warden who had asked him to turn off his mobile phone in a church.

John Tasker, 62, suffered a broken nose in the attack in Waltham Abbey Church, Essex. The man punched Mr Tasker in the face after his phone rang in the church and he was asked to switch it off. Mr Tasker's wife Audrey, who is now the church warden, is believed to have witnessed the attack on Thursday afternoon.

Spoonbill's lucky landing

WILDLIFE experts are tending a European Spoonbill which was blown hundreds of miles off course when heading for breeding grounds in Europe. Battered by a sandstorm off Dakar, Senegal, it plummeted exhausted towards the Atlantic Ocean. But it landed on the deck of a tanker bound for Britain. The African crew fed the bird which stayed on deck throughout the six-day voyage to Bristol. Experts believe the bird will soon be sufficiently recovered to be released.

William Frederick Shepherd

Mr WF ("Freddy") Shepherd Senior, Chairman of Shepherd Scrap Metals in Newcastle, has asked us to point out that his cousin Freddie Shepherd, until recently a director of Newcastle United Football Club, has no links with the family-owned company, Shepherd Scrap Metals, and that he himself and his son Mr WF Shepherd Junior have no connection with Newcastle United Football Club.

COMET Price index

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER

- Over 100 of Britain's best selling top brand products at the lowest prices guaranteed
- In the national newspapers every Saturday
- Updated daily on Teletext Channel 4 p425

INTEREST FREE OPTION ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £200

HITACHI CY7200 Upright
1200 watts power. On Board
1000 watt motor. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

HOVER 1000S Purpose Built
1000 watt motor. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

VAB 1100 1.5kW Vacuum & wetter
1200 watt power. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

Electrolux 1700 Fridge Freezer
1500 watt power. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

Daison 2000 Kettle
Black Ceramic. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP FV-1000 Video Camera
5.5 cm colour screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

PHILIPS ST3000 CD Player
1500 watt power. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

KENWOOD FP205
Food Processor. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SONY ST200 Colour Television
16" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

PHILIPS ST2000 CD Player
1500 watt power. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SONY ST2000 Colour Television
16" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

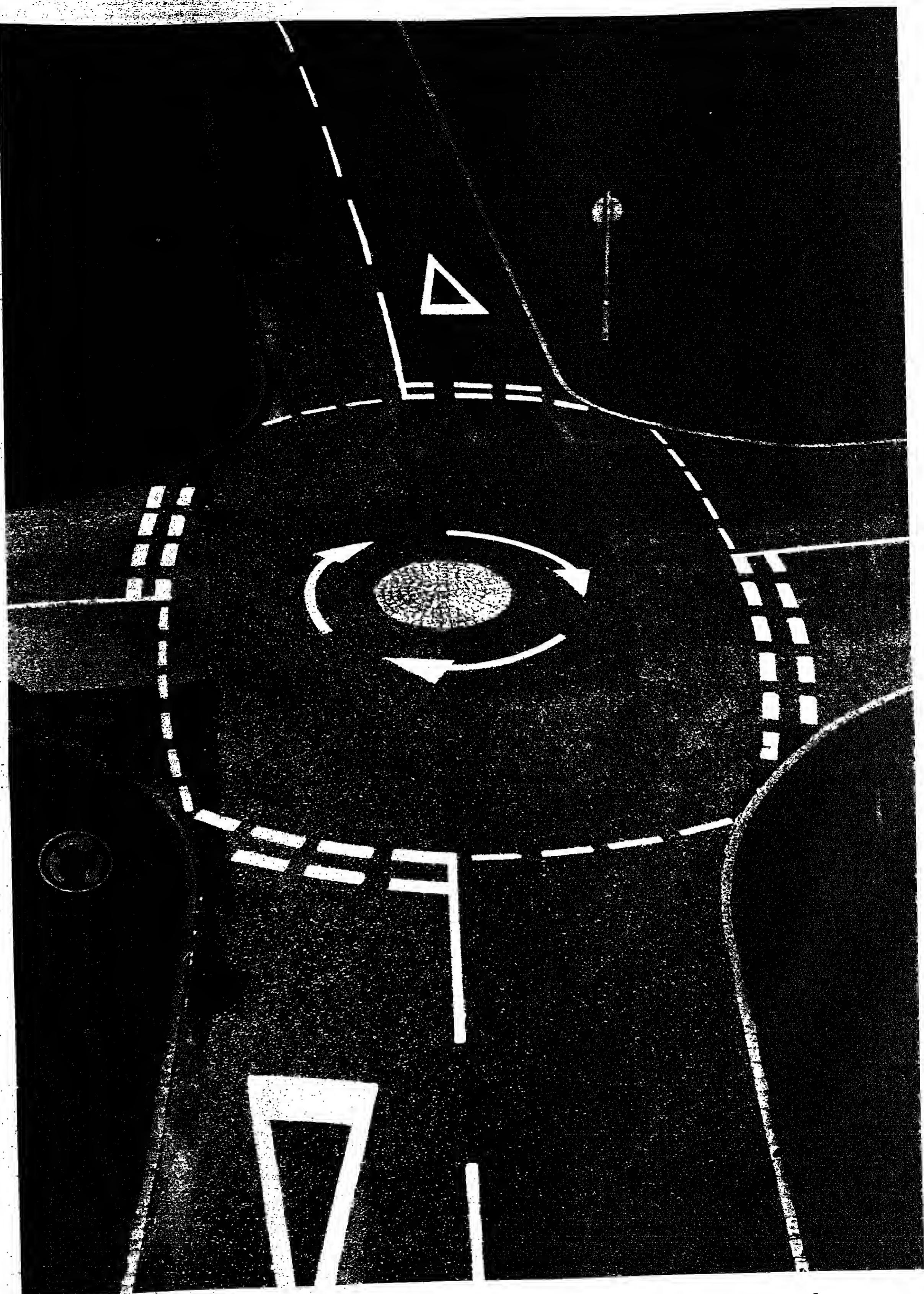
SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.99. SAVE £60.00
£119.99

SHARP LC-1400U Liquid Crystal
14" screen. Voucher
was £179.9



One circuit where quattro isn't banned.

Following Audi's success in the 1996 and 1997 British Touring Car Championships, the race organisers have decided that our quattro four wheel drive system is too good to race. Which now means, of course, that an Audi on the road can be more gripping than an Audi on the race track. In a roundabout sort of way.

Audi 
Vorsprung durch Technik

Britain sounds off about noise laws

By Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

THE DAYS of the dawn chorus of garden equipment are numbered. The spring-time cacophony of lawnmowers, trimmers and motorised garden hoes, with orchestration from pneumatic drills, concrete mixers, chain saws, leaf-blowers and wood-shredders is being tackled by Brussels.

But the initiative is being opposed by Britain as the Government digs in for a fight against elements of the tough new anti-noise laws proposed by the European Commission.

As the lead is being taken by the Department of Trade and Industry, rather than the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions - which "has an interest in the environmental aspects of noise" - the business aspects of the new directive appear to dominate the response. John Battle, the minister for science, energy and industry, says in a formal memorandum to Parlia-

ment: "The UK supports the main aims of the directive which are the removal of technical barriers to trade, the simplification of old noise directives and the improvement of the environment."

But he then protests about the unnecessary complications and particular expense of the measures for small and medium-size companies. "The UK believes the amount of environmental benefit to be gained from the measures is not proportionate to the burdens and costs that will be placed on industry."

Mr Battle reserves his strongest attack for the methods the Commission is proposing to use to measure the noise - something called ISO 4871 - the International Organisation for Standardisation noise test for machinery and equipment.

The UK is strongly opposed to the use of ISO 4871." Mr Battle says. The test takes the manufacturers' guaranteed noise level and then builds in an automatic noise cushion

of an additional 3 decibels - for "measurement uncertainty".

As described by Mr Battle, the ISO 4871 system is so complex that it reads like instructions for the assembly of a wood-shredder, poorly translated from Chinese, and the minister complains that the entire process will cost UK industry something in the region of £278m over the eight-year life of the directive.

The DTI estimates that there are 250 companies affected, with 30,000 employees and combined sales of about £4bn a year.

The directive will cover 55 types of equipment, including chain saws, concrete-mixers, petrol-fuelled grass-strimmers, hedge-trimmers, leaf-blowers, road-sweepers, refuse collection vehicles, wood-shredders and chippers. Lawnmowers are already covered, but curbs are also proposed for nine additional items of equipment, including mobile cranes, dumper trucks, electric lawn-trimmers, and motorised garden hoes.

Harmony of Good Friday procession masks turmoil at Westminster Abbey



Raphael Mpamzu, an asylum-seeker, en route from Central Methodist Hall to Westminster Cathedral and Abbey. Photograph: Tom Pilston

THERE'S NO BETTER VALUE UP TO 25% OFF SELECTED PAINTS AT HOMEBASE.



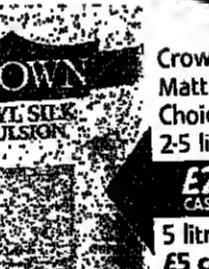
Homebase One Coat Emulsion
Choice of colours
2.5 litre
INTRODUCTORY OFFER
£9.99
Will be £11.99 from
13/5/98

Homebase Multi-coloured
Paint Brushes
5-Pack
£4.65



Was £13.49
Over 25% off
Now £9.99

Dulux Once Gloss-Pure
Brilliant White
2.5 litre



Crown Emulsion
Matt or Silk Finish
Choice of colours
2.5 litre £12.49
£2.50 CASHBACK
5 litre £20.99
£5 cashback



Was £9.99
20% off
Now £7.99
Crown Compatibles
Decorative Effect Finish
Choice of colours
1 litre



Was £11.99
Over 15% off
Now £8.99

Dulux Paintmate

THERE'S NO BETTER QUALITY

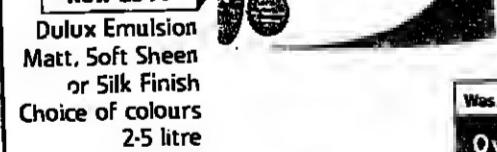
We believe Homebase Own Brand products are excellent quality. If any Homebase Own Brand product does not live up to your expectations on quality tell us why and we will refund your purchase price.



£39.99

Black & Decker
VersaPak
Paintmate®
VP900K with Free
Battery and
Charger Pack
VP120K
worth £19.99
when purchased
separately

Was £11.99 Now £8.99
25% off



Dulux Emulsion
Matt, Soft Sheen
or Silk Finish
Choice of colours
2.5 litre

Was £11.99 Now £10.49
Over 25% off

Dulux Weathershield
Textured Masonry Paint
Brilliant White 5 litre
Also available Dulux
Weathershield Smooth
Masonry Paint

Homecharm Emulsion
Matt or Silk Finish
Pure Brilliant White
5 litre
£6.99

Was £14.99
Over 25% off
Now £10.99
Dulux Once Emulsion
Choice of colours 2.5 litre



Was £11.99
Over 15% off
Now £8.49

Dulux Once Gloss
Choice of colours
750ml



Was £11.99
Over 15% off
Now £8.49

Dulux Once Gloss
Choice of colours
2 litre Handy Pack
for Paintmate®

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

HOMEBASE

www.homebase.co.uk THURSDAY 9TH 8AM - 10PM^{††} GOOD FRIDAY 8AM - 7PM • SATURDAY 11TH 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 12TH CLOSED • BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 13TH 8AM - 7PM[†]
*If you can find any of these products or offers at a cheaper price, we'll refund the difference. This will not affect your statutory rights. Prices marked include discount. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire.
†Stores in Scotland open Sunday 12th 9am-5pm, Monday 13th 8am-5pm. ††Ewell and Walton-on-Thames open 8am-8pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0845 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

Dean fails to resolve row with organist over finances

By Clare Garner

AS the annual Crucifixion procession concluded at Westminster Abbey yesterday at lunchtime, all appeared peaceful and harmonious. But behind the scenes a most unho-ho row was rumbling on.

Among the religious figures leading the procession on Good Friday was the Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Dr Wesley Carr, the man at the heart of the internal dispute at Westminster Abbey. Dr Carr has failed to resolve an acrimonious fall-out between himself and the abbey's long-serving organist and choirmaster following his accusation of "irregularities" in the choir accounts.

While Easter services at the abbey will go ahead as usual, they will be without the guiding hand of the organist, Dr Martin Neary, who is regarded as one of the finest church musicians in Britain and who was decorated by the Queen for his musical direction at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Dr Neary and his wife, Penny, who worked as his assistant, have been questioned by Dr Carr and Canon Middleton, the Canon Treasurer, with reference to the accounts for all the choir's tours and recordings over the past 10 years, and have been suspended from duties pending a decision.

Dr Neary has denied the allegations in what Frank Field, the Social Security Secretary



Wesley Carr: At heart of dispute rocking the Abbey

and a devout High Church Anglican, has dubbed "a kangaroo court". As a Royal Peculiar, Westminster Abbey is outside the diocesan system and is under the personal jurisdiction of the Queen. Dr Neary, 58, is expected to appeal against his dismissal to the Queen, and it is thought that the Queen will appoint the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, to act on her behalf.

Dr Carr caused another upset at the abbey in the run-up to Easter by announcing last week that he plans to introduce an upper age-limit of 75 for volunteers, most of whom are pensioners.

A number of elderly volunteers are reported to be distressed by the changes, which are to be implemented for insurance reasons.

Green Flag Motoring Assistance

GOING AWAY THIS
EASTER? WITH
VEHICLE RESCUE FROM
ONLY 8P PER DAY,
WE'LL MAKE SURE
YOU GET THERE.

0800 001 353
CALL FREE TODAY ON
0800 001 353
www.greenflag.co.uk

On average, we rescue our members in just 35 minutes. And if we're not with you in less than one hour, you can claim £10 back. What's more, our 6000 skilled mechanics will repair most problems at the roadside.

To find out more, contact us right now.

<http://www.greenflag.co.uk>

*Based upon rescue cover only. Premiums are for continuous payment method only. Excluded from customers satisfying one or more of the following criteria:
• Being a member of the armed forces, police or fire service.
• Being a member of a racing team.
• Being a member of a motor club.
• Being a member of a vehicle club.
• Being a member of a cycling club.
• Being a member of a boat club.
• Being a member of a motorcycle club.
• Being a member of a horse riding club.
• Being a member of a dog training club.
• Being a member of a dog walking club.
• Being a member of a dog agility club.
• Being a member of a dog obedience club.
• Being a member of a dog show club.
• Being a member of a dog handling club.
• Being a member of a dog training school.
• Being a member of a dog walking school.
• Being a member of a dog agility school.
• Being a member of a dog obedience school.
• Being a member of a dog show school.
• Being a member of a dog handling school.
• Being a member of a dog training centre.
• Being a member of a dog walking centre.
• Being a member of a dog agility centre.
• Being a member of a dog obedience centre.
• Being a member of a dog show centre.
• Being a member of a dog handling centre.
• Being a member of a dog training academy.
• Being a member of a dog walking academy.
• Being a member of a dog agility academy.
• Being a member of a dog obedience academy.
• Being a member of a dog show academy.
• Being a member of a dog handling academy.
• Being a member of a dog training college.
• Being a member of a dog walking college.
• Being a member of a dog agility college.
• Being a member of a dog obedience college.
• Being a member of a dog show college.
• Being a member of a dog handling college.
• Being a member of a dog training university.
• Being a member of a dog walking university.
• Being a member of a dog agility university.
• Being a member of a dog obedience university.
• Being a member of a dog show university.
• Being a member of a dog handling university.
• Being a member of a dog training institute.
• Being a member of a dog walking institute.
• Being a member of a dog agility institute.
• Being a member of a dog obedience institute.
• Being a member of a dog show institute.
• Being a member of a dog handling institute.
• Being a member of a dog training centre.
• Being a member of a dog walking centre.
• Being a member of a dog agility centre.
• Being a member of a dog obedience centre.
• Being a member of a dog show centre.
• Being a member of a dog handling centre.
• Being a member of a dog training school.
• Being a member of a dog walking school.
• Being a member of a dog agility school.
• Being a member of a dog obedience school.
• Being a member of a dog show school.
• Being a member of a dog handling school.
• Being a member of a dog training college.
• Being a member of a dog walking college.
• Being a member of a dog agility college.
• Being a member of a dog obedience college.
• Being a member of a dog show college.
• Being a member of a dog handling college.
• Being a member of a dog training university.
• Being a member of a dog walking university.
• Being a member of a dog agility university.
• Being a member of a dog obedience university.
• Being a member of a dog show university.
• Being a member of a dog handling university.
• Being a member of a dog training institute.
• Being a member of a dog walking institute.
• Being a member of a dog agility institute.
• Being a member of a dog obedience institute.
• Being a member of a dog show institute.
• Being a member of a dog handling institute.
• Being a member of a dog training centre.
• Being a member of a dog walking centre.
• Being a member of a dog agility centre.
• Being a member of a dog obedience centre.
• Being a member of a dog show centre.
• Being a member of a dog handling centre.
• Being a member of a dog training school.
• Being a member of a dog walking school.
• Being a member of a dog agility school.
• Being a member of a dog obedience school.
• Being a member of a dog show school.
• Being a member of a dog handling school.
• Being a member of a dog training college.
• Being a member of a dog walking college.
• Being a member of a dog agility college.
• Being a member of a dog obedience college.
• Being a member of a dog show college.
• Being a member of a dog handling college.
• Being a member of a dog training university.
• Being a member of a dog walking university.
• Being a member of a dog agility university.
• Being a member of a dog obedience university.
• Being a member of a dog show university.
• Being a member of a dog handling university.
• Being a member of a dog training institute.
• Being a member of a dog walking institute.
• Being a member of a dog agility institute.
• Being a member of a dog obedience institute.
• Being a member of a dog show institute.
• Being a member of a dog handling institute.
• Being a member of a dog training centre.
• Being a member of a dog walking centre.
• Being a member of a dog agility centre.
• Being a member of a dog obedience centre.
• Being a member of a dog show centre.
• Being a member of a dog handling centre.
• Being a member of a dog training school.
• Being a member of a dog walking school.
• Being a member of a dog agility school.
• Being a member of a dog obedience school.
• Being a member of a dog show school.
• Being a member of a dog handling school.
• Being a member of a dog training college.
• Being a member of a dog walking college.
• Being a member of a dog agility college.
• Being a member of a dog obedience college.
• Being a member of a dog show college.
• Being a member of a dog handling college.
• Being a member of a dog training university.
• Being a member of a dog walking university.
• Being a member of a dog agility university.
• Being a member of a dog obedience university.
• Being a member of a dog show university.
• Being a member of a dog handling university.
• Being a member of a dog training institute.
• Being a member of a dog walking institute.
• Being a member of a dog agility institute.
• Being a member of a dog obedience institute.
• Being a member of a dog show institute.
• Being a member of a dog handling institute.
• Being a member of a dog training centre.
• Being a member of a dog walking centre.
• Being a member of a dog agility centre.
• Being a member of a dog obedience centre.
• Being a member of a dog show centre.
• Being a member of a dog handling centre.
• Being a member of a dog training school.
• Being a member of a dog walking school.
• Being a member of a dog agility school.
• Being a member of a dog obedience school.
• Being a member of a dog show school.
• Being a member of a dog handling school.
• Being a member of a dog training college.
• Being a member of a dog walking college.
• Being a member of a dog agility college.
• Being a member of a dog obedience college.
• Being a member of a dog show college.
• Being a member of a dog handling college.
• Being a member of a dog training university.
• Being a member of a dog walking university.
• Being a member of a dog agility university.
• Being a member of a dog obedience university.
• Being a member of a dog show university.
• Being a member of a dog handling university.
• Being a member of a dog training institute.
• Being a member of a dog walking institute.
• Being a member of a dog agility institute.
• Being a member of a dog obedience institute.
• Being a member of a dog show institute.
• Being a member of a dog handling institute.
• Being a member of a dog training centre.
• Being a member of a dog walking centre.
• Being a member of a dog agility centre.
• Being a member of a dog obedience centre.
• Being a member of a dog show centre.
• Being a member of a dog handling centre.
• Being a member of a dog training school.
• Being a member of a dog walking school.
• Being a member of a dog agility school.
• Being a member of a dog obedience school.
• Being a member of a dog show school.
• Being a member of a dog handling school.
• Being a member of a dog training college.
• Being a member of a dog walking college.
• Being a member of a dog agility college.
• Being a member of a dog obedience college.
• Being a member of a dog show college.
• Being a member of a dog handling college.
• Being a member of a dog training university.
• Being a member of a dog walking university.
• Being a member of a dog agility university.
• Being a member of a dog obedience university.
• Being a member of a dog show university.
• Being a member of a dog handling university.
• Being a member of a dog training institute.
• Being a member of a dog walking institute.
• Being a member of a dog agility institute.
• Being a member of a dog obedience institute.
• Being a member of a dog show institute.
• Being a member of a dog handling institute.
• Being a member of a dog training centre.
• Being a member of a dog walking centre.
• Being a member of a dog agility centre.
• Being a member of a dog obedience centre.
• Being a member of a dog show centre.
• Being a member of a dog handling centre.
• Being a member of a dog training school.
• Being a member of a dog walking school.
• Being a member of a dog agility school.
• Being a member of a dog obedience school.
• Being a member of a dog show school.
• Being a member of a dog handling school.
• Being a member of a dog training college.
• Being a member of a dog walking college.
• Being a member of a dog agility college.
• Being a member of a dog obedience college.
• Being a member of a dog show college.
• Being a member of a dog handling college.
• Being a member of a dog training university.
• Being a member of a dog walking university.
• Being a member of a dog agility university.
• Being

Peter Gabriel tunes in to write score for millennium spectacular



Peter Gabriel: 'The project can pump a bit of excitement into the depressed sponge of English negativity' Photograph: Arnold Slatner

By NANCIE NIESEWAND

THE Millennium Dome entertainment spectacular will be a triumph of experience over youth - old staggers over Britpop tyros every time.

Peter Gabriel, the 49-year-old star, is staging a comeback for 2000, this time behind the scenes and away from the mikes and lights and fireworks.

The former Genesis member is writing the score for the 30-minute show that will be staged in the Dome's auditorium six times a day. He is also planning the show's contents with the creative director and rock set designer Mark Fisher, 52.

"No, it's not a musical telling the history of pop music," Gabriel says. "It's a fable that involves nature and man through performance, art, sight and sound, smell and colour. Lots of characters pop up in it. Scientists, behavioural scientists, artists, industrialists ... we must tell the story of the post-industrial landscape and the dilemmas that will face us."

To help Gabriel, the French-Canadian theatre director Robert Lepage has been appointed to develop

the special effects. It is not the first time they have worked together. When Lepage designed Gabriel's 1993 tour, "The Secret World", Gabriel burst out of a lit phone booth singing "Come Talk to Me" with a cable like an umbilical chord slowly pulling him back into the booth before the lights went out.

When Lepage staged *Seven Streams of Ota* at the National Theatre in London, the audience was transported from Japan to a tenement in New York without a scene change simply by the ingenious use of light and screen and blackout.

And mud filled the stage at the same theatre when Lepage staged *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The inspiration for that came from parish records from 1595, the year Shakespeare wrote the play, which revealed that it was the year of mud.

Mud will also feature in Gabriel's CD-Rom game, *Eve*, which will be projected on computer screens. In the game Adam and Eve slip and fall and wrestle their way through what Gabriel calls "this post-industrial landscape" but they have the power to plant trees and bluebell glades in the mud and regain paradise.

A star-studded list of talking heads helps them to reach their goal. For example, Robin Skinner, the psychologist who wrote *Families and How to Survive Them* with John Cleese, pops up to band out marital advice. And paintings and sculptures from the late Helen Chadwick and from Kathy de Montraux and Nils Udo can be manipulated and altered on screen. You can also dub and cut your own tunes from the various artists that Gabriel records on his World Music label.

And how will Gabriel deal with the Dome? The theme, he says, will be "M for Millennium and also M for Empowerment. People will come into the dome and experience this assault on their senses and get ideas to realise more of who or what they want to be. I'm the catalyst.

From being a Dome sceptic Gabriel now describes himself as a realistic optimist. "If there is a project that can pump a bit of excitement into the big depressed sponge that is the core of English negativity, then it will be worth doing. A climate that encourages and frees ideas and good thinking." There is a good New Year's resolution.

Gun police exposed by medical shortfall

Jason Benetto
Crime Correspondent

POLICE marksmen are frequently sent to firearms incidents without any medical back-up, a Home Office funded study has found.

The number of times police have been issued with firearms has risen sixfold in the last 10 years to about 12,000, and examination of firearms incidents found that there were gaps in providing immediate medical care in a significant number of cases.

The authors of the study say the first 15 minutes in any trauma are critical and can make all the difference to a casualty's chance of survival.

Firearms officers should be given special medical training or forces should send a doctor out with the marksmen, suggest the two police officers who carried out the unpublished study.

Featured in *Police Review* magazine, PCs Stuart Campbell and Alasdair Wright, both firearms officers with the Cumbria force, said that rural areas were particularly badly affected because of the difficulty of getting an ambulance quickly to a shooting incident.

Their research revealed that most forces inform the ambulance service of a firearms incident but few have any formal arrangements to ensure medics would be at the scene.

"We started to question what an ambulance 'on standby' actually means," said PC Campbell.

"Does it mean it's at the station, around the corner or just available when the request was made and is now on another job?"

The research found that often there was effectively no cover. Calling for immediate im-

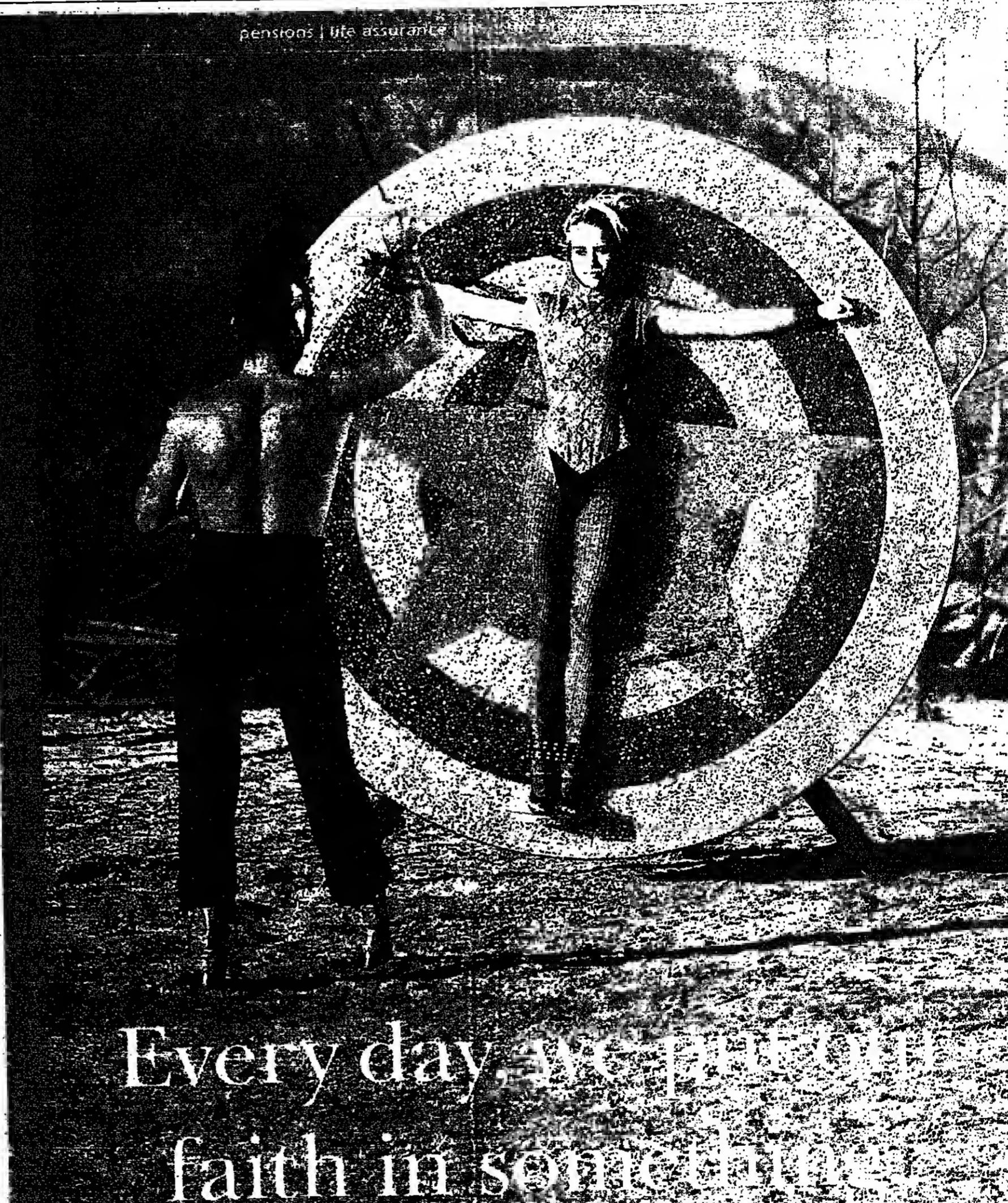
Raising money is monkey business

A STUDENT is preparing to become a zoo attraction in his own right when he lives for a week in a monkey cage.

Andy Marshall, 21, a third-year zoology student at Cardiff University, will spend seven days and nights in an enclosure at Paignton Zoo in south Devon, where he is studying primate behaviour.

Mr Marshall's endeavour, which begins on Monday morning, is aimed at raising £3,000 to pay for his research assistant place on a zoological survey of the coast of Tanzania.

None of the capuchin monkeys he has been working with will be with him in the 150 square foot cage, but he will have plenty of creature comforts to keep him occupied.



Every day, we have
faith in something

EVERY DAY, 35 MILLION PEOPLE

Over 100 million people in over 100 countries all over the world buy AXA products. These include life insurance for people the world over, car insurance, travel insurance, health insurance, pension plans, unit trusts and investment services.



35 million policies

This advertisement, which has been approved by AXA Sun Life Services plc, is issued by Sun Life and Prudential Holdings plc and the above information relates to the worldwide business of the AXA Group. AXA Sun Life Services plc and other members of the AXA Sun Life Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and/or DMO for life assurance, pensions, unit trusts and investment services.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

Currys

EASTER EXTRAS SAVINGS

WITH VOUCHER



**CHOOSE
7 TOP
SOFTWARE
TITLES**

By redemption. Ask for details

**FREE
PRINTER
AND
SCANNER**

WITH THIS PC
WITH VOUCHER



PACKAGE PRICE
£999

FREE SCANNER
WITH THESE PC/PRINTER PACKAGES



PACKAGE PRICE
£1348

SAVE
£200

EASTER
EXTRA
FREE
SCANNER*



INCLUDES
£1000
SOFTWARE

Ask for details

FREE SCANNER*
WITH THESE PCS

EASTER
EXTRA
FREE
SCANNER*

COMPAQ Intel Pentium II®
233MHz Enhanced Multimedia PC
with 56k Modem

■ 32Mb RAM/2Gb hard drive.
■ 20-speed CD-ROM drive.

Model 2240. In-store Price £1428

PLUS PRIMAX Scanner
Model COLORADO

£748. Includes £1000 Software & £100 Cashback

PACKARD BELL Intel Pentium II®
233MHz Multimedia PC with 56k Modem

■ 32Mb RAM/2Gb hard drive.
■ 20-speed CD-ROM drive.

Model 4620. In-store Price £1428

PLUS PRIMAX Scanner
Model COLORADO

£1048. Includes £1000 Software & £100 Cashback

2-IN-1 SCANNER/PRINTER & PC PACKAGE

PACKARD BELL Intel® 200MHz MMX™ Technology

Multimedia PC

■ 16Mb RAM/1Gb hard drive.

■ 20-speed CD-ROM drive.

Model 9030. In-store Price £998

PLUS CANON Colour Inkjet Printer Plus Scanner

■ Save £100 cash money with this printer and scanner in one.

■ Converts your printer to scan directly by inserting scanner.

Model BJC300 SCAN. In-store Package Price £998

INCLUDES
£1000
SOFTWARE

Ask for details

EASTER
EXTRA
SAVE
£100

WEEKLY
OFFERS

PEACE OF MIND FOR
YEARS TO COME

Up to 12 months interest free repayment when you buy a Mastercard® Credit Card.

INTEREST FREE REPAYMENT WHEN PURCHASED WITH ANY PRODUCT OVER £200.

Ask in-store for details.

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

EXAMPLE OF INTEREST
FREE OPTION ON
SELECTED PRODUCTS

HOW IT WORKS Account is interest free if repaid in full before

(or with 6th, 9th, 10th or 12th monthly repayment).

according to the period stated with the product. See our 'How it Works'

Showcard in-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £999.99.

12 MONTHS
INTEREST
FREE OPTION

Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

£133.55. Total amount payable £999.99. INTEREST 0%.

20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £133.55. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment.

Teachers may strike over pay shake-up

By Judith Judd
Education Editor

MEMBERS of the biggest teachers union will this weekend threaten strike action against government policies to raise standards in schools.

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers have put down an emergency motion at the union's annual conference in Blackpool calling for action, including strikes, if new education action zones, test beds for experiments in the inner cities, threaten teachers' pay and conditions.

Ministers have said they want at least some of 25 zones to be set up from September to tear up national conditions of pay and service. Some conference delegates want to go further than their leaders and boycott the zones altogether.

Left-wing delegates have also tabled a series of motions proposing strikes over government policies on oversized classes, new ways of sacking teachers, and the closure of failing schools. The conference promises to be as stormy as ever, with the union's moderate leadership opposing many calls for industrial action.

Yesterday Doug McAvoy, the union's secretary, warned delegates not to indulge in "political posturing". They should, he said, realise that there was a credit as well as a debit side to government policies. "Any delegate who ignores the Government's spending commitments, its commitment to improve buildings, and its commitment to reduce class sizes for five, six and seven-year-olds is deliberately not wanting to live in the real world." The Gov-

ernment had made mistakes, such as naming and shaming failing schools and phasing in the teachers' pay award. "That enables people to argue that there is no difference between this government and the last. But there is a vast difference."

He argued that, though many motions on the agenda remained the same as in the past, many conference delegates' attitudes had changed. They realised that industrial action was only possible on an important issue which touched a nerve with most teachers. "There are people here from political groups in the union who acknowledge that privately, but who would never dare to acknowledge it from the platform."

He dismissed as "political posturing" an attack on the leadership's decision to sign up to new government procedures to enable teachers to be sacked more quickly. Today delegates will debate a motion calling for strike action over the procedures.

Another motion due to be discussed today will call for industrial action over teachers who are bullied by heads, if school governors fail to protect them. Teachers are still angry with Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, who heads the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

Delegates will consider refusing to comply with inspections if teachers believe inspectors are being confrontational or unprofessional.

They will also hear calls for strikes over members threatened with redundancy or dismissed after schools have been declared failing by inspectors.

One in three pupils bullied

By Ben Russell
Education Correspondent

A THIRD of secondary school pupils have suffered from bullying, according to a survey published today. But the vast majority of the 4,000 11- to 16-year-olds surveyed by MORI felt their teachers were aware of problems and could do something about them.

Union leaders said it added weight to their claims that teachers spent too long on paperwork, leaving less time to deal with children's needs. Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, which commissioned the poll, said it was the first real indication of the strength of feeling among children. He said: "Bullying is a serious problem in schools and there is a great deal of concern about it from children and parents."

The survey, carried out in 350 state schools across England and Wales, asked children whether teachers were aware of the fact that bullying was going on in their school. A third of children replied that their teachers were very aware, and another third said staff were fairly aware. Nine per cent said

they were bullied often, and 27 per cent said they had sometimes been victims of bullying.

Asked about drugs in schools, nearly 60 per cent of pupils said staff were very or fairly aware of the problems.

Mr Smith said the survey had also revealed a "faddish culture" in classrooms, with boys declaring that they were "too cool for school". He called for primary schools to recruit more male teachers as role models, and said there was a need for more research into pupil attitudes.

Forty-eight per cent of children thought girls did better, with just four per cent answering that boys had the upper hand. Of those who thought girls did better, 69 per cent thought they worked harder. 64 per cent said boys did not concentrate, 62 per cent said girls were more mature and 58 per cent said boys though school-work was bad for their image.

Mr Smith said interviews had supported traditional views of boys' and girls' attitudes to schooling. "The message is that girls are more conscientious. They work harder and there's a great deal of macho mucking about among boys. In Cool Britannia, boys working hard at school is not cool."

Body identified as missing Kirsty

A BODY discovered at a nature reserve has been formally identified as that of missing police computer operator Kirsty Carver.

Jewellery and personal items were used to identify the body.

Inspector Steve Love of Humberside police said: "The visual identification by relatives was not possible due to the passage of time since her death which appears to have been about the time of her disappearance."

Craig Belcher, a petrol station attendant, has been



Hot stuff: Daniel Crute performing at an open audition in Covent Garden yesterday to find the best street performer in London. The winners will be asked to perform at the IB Awards, an arts awards night at Alexandra Palace, north London, in two weeks' time
Photograph: David Rose



Looking for a fixed rate mortgage as low as 4.95% 5.3% APR?

Then look no further. The Halifax offers a new range of mortgage deals with fixed rates for 2, 3 and 5 years starting from as low as 4.95% 5.3% APR*. And with our Mortgage Promise you'll also know how much you can borrow in just 15 minutes. So whether you're buying a new home or looking to remortgage, with almost 200 branches open on Sundays and some open for the whole of the Easter weekend, our expert help and advice is always available. So if you're looking for a great deal on a fixed rate mortgage, everything points to the Halifax.

FOR A 15 MINUTE MORTGAGE DECISION CALL INTO A BRANCH OR PHONE 0800 203049
LINES OPEN SUNDAY & BANK HOLIDAYS 10AM-4PM

HALIFAX

Get a little extra help.

www.halifax.co.uk

Calls may be recorded. You must be aged 18 or over and give us a mortgage over your property. We will take into account your personal and financial circumstances and the value of price of your property. These will affect how much we lend you, how much cashback you can get and what, if any additional mortgage security fee, an arrangement fee and repayment fee will be charged. If you apply to us for a mortgage on or before 30.3.98 we may pay the cost of the mortgage valuation up to £400 (in Scotland you must pay us £15 administration fee). This product or offer is only available to home buyers and mortgage customers. You must enter into the mortgage before 30.3.98. This and our other products and offers are subject to conditions. For more details and for written quotations, ask at your local office. We can withdraw products and offers without notice. Our fixed interest rate, the special interest rate will only apply during the special rate period. *The special rate period will end on 31.3.2003. Typical example: Assumption: a £100,000 25 year repayment mortgage of £47,500 completed on 16.6.98, secured on a £50,000 property, conveyancer's charges £112.00, arrangement fee £25, valuation fee £15, mortgage fee £40, debris clearance fee £25, initial interest £1,110.05 and also that mortgage repaid at end of mortgage term, additional mortgage security fee £475.50, annual management fee £100, additional mortgage security fee, for loans up to 90% of property's purchase price or valuation, whichever is lower, paid for by Halifax for mortgages with an interest rate between 9.25% and 12.50%, and interest rate of 4.95% 5.3% APR applies throughout the mortgage term. In practice, we charge a variable basis interest rate at the end of the fixed rate period, that is currently 8.0%. Terms quoted are available after 31.3.2000. Monthly maximum payment £267.03 after 300 monthly payments. Total amount payable £84,572. Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2RG.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Halifax plc represents only the Halifax Financial Services Marketing Group (which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority) for life assurance, pensions and unit trusts.

Magical tumble of blue ice blocks stairway to the summit



STEPHEN GOODWIN

Everest Diary

Base Camp

IT IS NOON and we are sitting in the expedition mess-tent drinking tea with Dawa and Glycerin, a couple of Sherpas working for the Singaporean expedition. They are old friends of some our team, and looking as cool and relaxed as if they were having a day off.

In fact before New Yorker David Calloway and I had finished breakfast, the pair had completed a three-hour round trip through the Khumbu Icefall, a height gain of some 700 metres to Camp 1 at its head, crossing gaping crevasses on aluminium ladders lashed together, and always with the chance of one of the teetering ice-cliffs crashing on to their route. The Icefall has made many Sherpa widows. As load carriers, they make many more journeys through this barrier to Everest than the climbers who hire them, increasing the odds of an accident.

Our own Himalayan Kingdom's team will take a tentative look at the Icefall ladders tomorrow and, all being well, go the whole way up to Camp 1 next week. But the three-hour round trip, carrying a 2-kilogram load on the way up, heavier than you are supposed to take as baggage on an international flight, was impres-



sive. Newcomers like myself are expected to take up to six hours just for the one-way climb up, and with the lightest of packs.

Take away the idea of climbing the Icefall and the tumble of glistening blue ice looks magical. But it is constantly on the move, the frozen waterfall between the glacier above in the Western Cwm and its continuation literally beneath us here in Base Camp. Each of the

house-sized cliffs leaning out at ever more precarious angles will fall before long. As the late Dougal Haston wrote: "One can only go in and hope... When one finally comes out of this icy mess into the Western Cwm, it is like being in a newer, brighter land."

Looking back from the foot of the Icefall, there is the whole of Base Camp spread out over an area maybe as big as Green Park, but a

bit more awkward to traverse. My own tent is perched on a bouldery hummock a couple of minutes walk from the mess tent and kitchen. Beneath the stones is the ice of the glacier and occasionally in the night there is a "crack" as it yields to the pressure to move down stream. Two flimsy structures house the toilet and a shower - having a shower depends on there being enough sun to heat a plastic bag of water to sus-

pend over one's head. And at the moment it is snowing.

Our first three days here have been spent, like other expeditions, establishing the operation necessities for a long stay and climbing Everest. More than 40 barrels of gear and food were brought up by yaks and their lower-level cousins, dzos, and some have still to be unpacked. Yesterday, we erected the radio mast that will keep Base

Camp in touch with climbers on the mountain. And on an individual level, team members have been adjusting crampons to fit the bulky insulated boots needed to keep out the cold at high altitude.

We went to the foot of the Icefall to try out gear strange to some us on the short ice-cliffs. There has been a fair bit of mockery in the climbing press in recent years about commercial groups being instructed

Top of the world: Before they can contemplate Summit Ridge, Goodwin and his companions must cross the treacherous Khumbu Icefall. Photograph: Robert Schauer

in basic ice-climbing at Base Camp. But unless they have been on this type of Himalayan expedition before, few climbers will have had experience of moving up and down fixed ropes, still less crossing ladders while wearing crampons. I'm not too proud to practise before I'm doing it over a bottomless crevasse.

Healthwise, the bugs that struck in the lodges on the walk-in through the Khumbu seem to have been beaten off, and, despite the 5,400m height, no headaches were reported at breakfast. Our acclimatisation though is not yet complete and I can imagine that without the diary to write, a touch of Base Camp Fever might set in.

Writing the diary though is the easy bit. Our satellite phone has packed up, following a trend set by satellite phones with other expeditions, and I am reduced to trudging over the piles of glacial rubble time after time to beg the use of a phone with a well-equipped American group. There are few if any other phones available and the price of a call is £10 a minute, so a replacement cannot come soon enough. The alternative, of course, is to go back to the days of using runners to get news back to the outside world. It has its attractions. Now why didn't I bring those cleft sticks.

The Link

20% OFF ALL

PLUS CELLNET DIGITAL MOBILES*
DOUBLE FREE CALLS FOR 6 MONTHS
WORTH UP TO AN EXTRA £120**

MOTOROLA

FREE HANDS-FREE KIT, IN-CAR CHARGER AND CASE WORTH A TOTAL OF £4.99*

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 300 minutes talktime/
90 hours standby
• 90 name and number memory
• Backlit display
• Can operate on standard
'AA' batteries, ideal for
emergency use
Model: D70
Was £9.99
In-store Price £4.99*

£3.99*
Plus £2.50 for Connection

NORTEL

FREE TRAFFIC LINE AND IN-CAR HOLDER WORTH A TOTAL OF £14.99*

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE WITH IN-CAR PACKAGE
• Built-in hands-free facility
• In-car holder and Traffic Line unit for
complete in-car solution
• Up to 135 minutes talktime/
96 hours standby
• Fax and data compatible
Model: 610
Was £49.99
In-store Price £29.99*

£9.99*
Plus £2.50 for Connection

NOKIA

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Built-in Diary, Clock, Alarm and Calculator
• Easy-to-use advanced screen functions
• Up to 180 minutes talktime/
60 hours standby
• 140 name and number memory
• Selection of 3 fun games
• Available in Sky Blue finish
Model: 610
In-store Price £99.99*

£79.99*
Plus £2.50 for Connection

PANASONIC

FREE HANDS-FREE KIT WORTH £9.99*

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Fax and data compatible
• Thumb key for simple access to phone
functions
• Up to 210 minutes talktime/
80 hours standby
• Available in stylish Blue
or Grey finish
Model: G450
In-store Price £9.99*

£7.99*
Plus £2.50 for Connection

MITSUBISHI

INCLUDES HANDS-FREE KIT, IN-CAR HOLDER & TRAFFIC LINE WORTH A TOTAL OF £9.99*

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Easy-to-use thumbkey enables simple menu
navigation
• Up to 80 minutes talktime/85 hours standby
• Fax and data compatible
• Send and receive short
text messages
• 190 name and
number memory
Model: MT30
In-store Price £19.99*

£15.99*
Plus £2.50 for Connection

STAR TAC

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
• Extremely small and lightweight design
• Up to 140 minutes talktime/40 hours standby
• Vibracall™ - silently alerts you to a call
• 190 name and number memory
• Fax and data compatible
Model:
MOTOROLA StarTAC 85
In-store Price £229.99*

£183.99*
Plus £2.50 for Connection

The Link

Phone Show '98
IN STORE NOW!

**SAVE
UP
TO
£105
ON 1 YEAR
PACKAGES†**

INCLUDES:
• Digital Mobile Phone
• 12 Months Line Rental
• Connection Fee
• Free Calls Each Month

**£ GUARANTEED
LOWEST PRICES**

If you find exactly the same package
cheaper locally within 7 days, we will
refund the difference.

**EXPERT
ADVICE**

Our expert staff are specially trained
in all communication products including
Cellnet, One 2 One and Orange networks.
We will be happy to help you make
the choice that's right for you.

**TALK & DRIVE
SAFELY**

The Link stocks a range of hands-free
car kits for all mobile phones and
recommends their use if you intend
to use your mobile phone in the car.

**126 STORES
NATIONWIDE**

**FREEPHONE
0500 222 666**

For your nearest store

cellnet

• FREE Calls every month on all Cellnet tariffs*
• 98% UK Population Coverage
• Use in over 70 Countries
• Fax, Data and Short Message Service

Taxpayers foot bill of £5.3m for MPs' catering

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

THE COST of food and drink for MPs and staff in the House of Commons has gone up by more than £1m in the year since the general election, figures have shown. The taxpayer paid £5.3m for the bars and restaurants in the House last year, compared with £4.2m in the last year of the Conservative administration.

Next year's total bill for feeding and watering the nation's elected representatives, their staff and guests is expected to come to £5.8m, according to official estimates. Just £800,000 of that will be paid in bar and restaurant bills.

Food and drink in Westminster has always been subsidised. Although staff costs are high because of anti-social hours and the need for taxis home after late sittings, £5.5m has been set aside this year - MPs are still able to eat and drink very cheaply.

A shot of 12-year-old malt whisky in the Strangers' bar, frequented by MPs and guests, costs £1.00. In the Red Lion on Parliament Street, a couple of hundred yards away, the same drink costs £2.25. Carlsberg lager costs £1.50 in the Commons and £2.25 in the Red Lion. The cheapest bitter in the house, Federation Ale, costs £1.25, while the pub's Red Lion bitter costs £1.65. Guinness is £1.70 in Parliament but £2.35 in bars and restaurant bills.

The 660 MPs and 2,000 other staff at the Commons also eat well for little compared with what they would pay in a nearby restaurant. On a typical day recently the members' dining room served three-course meals for £7.50. Those who wanted to go à la carte could splash out and spend up to £11.80. The nearest restaurant, The Atrium, charges £20 to £30 for a three-course meal without wine.

Not surprisingly, few members were prepared to criticise the subsidies, despite a number of inquiries by *The Independent*. Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West, said he had

been told the food was cheap because it was supported by receipts from the House of Commons gift shop. He made inquiries before the election which revealed that the four private dining rooms in the House were booked four times as often by Conservatives as by Labour members. "Those dining rooms were used largely for corporate hospitality or to advance the careers of members."

'Dining rooms
were used to
advance careers
of members'

Hundreds of prisoners 'innocent'

SOME 1,300 prison inmates are innocent, a former senior prison service official claimed yesterday. Prisoners contesting their convictions should be "presumed innocent" and given special privileges. David Wilson said.

His growing belief that at least one in 50 inmates is probably not guilty of the crimes begun after Stefan Kiszko was

freed in 1992 after 16 years in jail for the murder of schoolgirl Lesley Molseed.

Kiszko, who died a year after release, was an inmate at Grendon Underwood jail in Buckinghamshire while Mr Wilson was a governor there.

He was just one of many long-term inmates destined to stay in prison because they refused to admit their guilt and

"address their offending behaviour" - a prerequisite for being granted parole.

"Of course he refused - it was absurd," Mr Wilson said.

Mr Wilson, now an academic at the University of Central England, used a technique called "triangulation" to come up with the conclusion that 2 per cent of the country's 65,000 inmates were innocent.

Look out for the special voucher savings on products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Link store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Standard calling code. Three Office offer. **By redemption. Avg. instore for details. When you connect to Cellnet Digital Line Advance, Price refers to £19.99 for Line Advance package and compares to Payline monthly. 12 x £15.00 + £5.00 for connection = £93.99

*20% off all Cellnet Digital Mobile Phones by voucher only. When you take out a new subscription to a Cellnet digital monthly tariff only. Not available on monthly upgrades. Ask instore for details. **On tariffs available in store.

**By redemption. Avg. instore for details. When you connect to Cellnet Digital Line Advance, Price refers to £19.99 for Line Advance package and compares to Payline monthly. 12 x £15.00 + £5.00 for connection = £93.99

Pilgrims get the stamp of approval for their progress



Journey's end: Cathedral visitors at the 12th century Door of Glory in Santiago de Compostela. Photograph: Brian Harris

THE great cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, destination of the most important Christian pilgrimage in Europe, is a gaunt building, unlike many of Spain's dour ecclesiastical monuments. Last week, on Palm Sunday, with the doors flung open on all four sides, there was an air of light-hearted satisfaction when the rain momentarily let up and sun shone.

The faithful here exhibit none of the extravagant fanaticism you associate with Spanish Holy Week. Families stood quietly in the beautiful cathedral square holding branches of palm, laurel, olive, or sprigs of rosemary plucked from their gardens, trying to keep their exquisitely kitted-out children in check. Galicians from this part of Spain's north-west corner are renowned for their even temperament and modest ways.

Then I spotted the pilgrim, walking with discomfort, bent under his rucksack, draped with waterproof layers. He fumbled

his "compostela", the certificate he had walked the stipulated minimum of 100km. "I'll frame it alongside the others and I'll be back in 2001 when I'm retired. My granddaughter will be 15 and I'll bring her with me."

Legend has it that St James the Apostle was buried here, I ventured neutrally. His eyes sparkled. "I don't believe Santiago ever came to Spain. But I always climb up behind the altar to embrace the silver statue of the apostle, just to say I'm here. The archbishop who set up this whole business was the greatest entrepreneur in the history of Christendom!"

You'd never hear such a confession in Seville.

THE film *The Full Monty* – showing in Santiago and at a cinemas across Spain – has become the stock catchphrase tossed to any passing Brit, joining a pantheon that includes Mrs Thatcher, "Lady Di" and Bobby Robson. The strippers of Sheffield have

achieved such heroic status that Spanish workers have adopted them as a role model.

Some 50 policemen in the Galician port of Vigo assembled in the foyer of the town hall the other day and, to the astonishment of passers-by, stripped off their uniform down to their caps and boxer shorts in a protest against poor working conditions. They have been campaigning for months for waterproof uniforms and walkie-talkies.

Fremen in Catalonia adopted a similar tactic a few weeks back, filing into a management meeting clad only in underpants and helmets, bearing a banner proclaiming "Without better fire protection, you too are naked and defenceless."

In Vigo town hall, the squirming of the assembled suits, caught by television cameras, was bliss to behold, and the stunned city fathers announced they would address the police men's complaints forthwith.

Dozens die as 300mph tornadoes strike US

By David Usborne
in New York

THE American Deep South was continuing to count its dead yesterday after being hit by a series of tornadoes with wind-speeds of up to 300 mph – powerful enough to detach entire houses from their basements.

In northern Alabama, the area worst affected, the death toll had risen to at least 42 and was expected to climb higher. More than 100 people were in hospital being treated for injuries, many of them in critical condition. The storms struck late on Wednesday.

The fiercest of the tornadoes touched down north-west of Birmingham, Alabama.

Designated an F-5 tornado by the National Weather Service, the twister cut a mile-wide path of devastation that was 15 miles long. Miraculously, it lifted from

the ground just two miles from the centre of Birmingham.

F-5 tornadoes – the strongest possible category, with wind speeds between 265mph and 315mph – are extremely rare. Rescue officials in Alabama, where federal emergencies were in force yesterday, said they had never seen damage like it.

Homes, schools, shops and churches had been turned to matchsticks and rubble. "Some places were not survivable," remarked Brian Peters, a National Weather Service meteorologist. Residents and rescue workers said the area outside Birmingham looked as though it had been hit by a bomb.

A few deaths were also reported in Georgia, South Carolina and Mississippi. This year is proving one of the worst in recent years for tornadoes in the United States and is set to become the deadliest since 1984, when 122 died.

Pope hears Easter confessions

THE POPE heard the private confessions of 15 pilgrims picked at random as he led Catholics in Good Friday ceremonies. The 10 Italians, a Polish woman, a woman from Burkina Faso, a Spanish couple and two American students were shepherded towards a wooden confessional in the basilica to make their confession to the Pope.

Pol Pot faces tribunal

THE United States has asked China for help in finding a suitable tribunal for Pol Pot, the former Cambodian leader who presided over the murders of as many as 2 million people, a senior US diplomat said yesterday.

Thomas Pickering, the US Under Secretary of State, said Chinese officials "listened with interest" but did not immediately respond to the request raised in meetings since his arrival on Thursday in Peking. President Bill Clinton has reportedly ordered the departments of Defense, State and Justice to prepare strategies to arrest Pol Pot.

Peace-keepers for Balkans

GREECE told its Balkan neighbours yesterday it would join discussions on creating a regional peace-keeping force.

At a meeting with his Romanian and Bulgarian counterparts, Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said Greek and the Greek Foreign Minister, Theodoros Pangalos, said Greek foreign ministry officials would attend a meeting in Bucharest towards the end of the month. Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Albania have been discussing the creation of a joint Balkan peace-keeping force to step in when crises bubble over in the troubled region.

— Reuters, Santorini

Grim task in Mecca

FAMILY, friends and diplomats combed hospitals and mortuaries in Mecca, Saudi Arabia yesterday to identify 118 Muslim pilgrims killed in a stampede on the last day of the annual hajj.

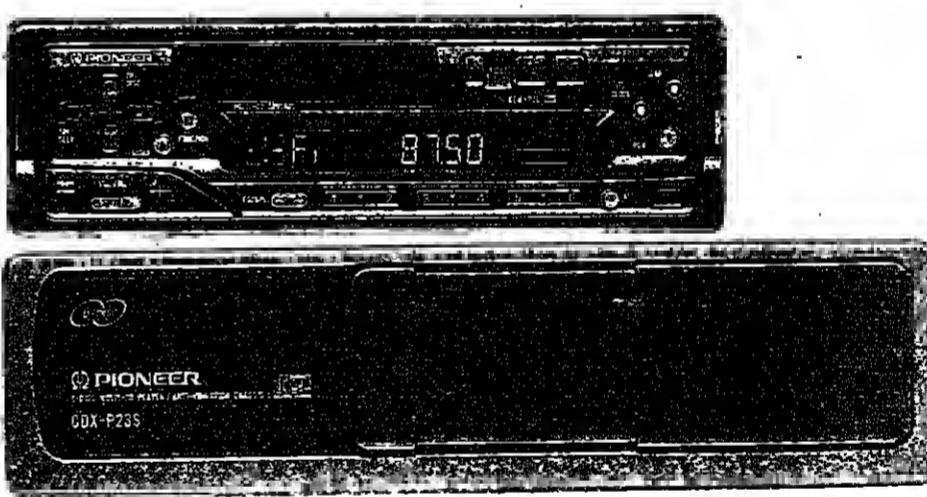
The stampede took place on a bridge near Mena, outside Mecca, where a huge crowd of pilgrims prepared for the symbolic stoning of the devil.

— Reuters, Mecca

The Halfords car audio sale.

(Stereos you can't turn down.)

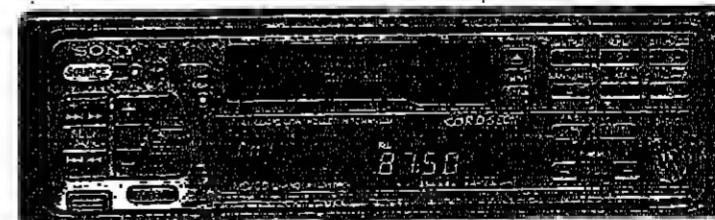
Pioneer MCD 1630
6 disc CD
autochanger with
radio-cassette.
£399.99 £299.99
Save £100



Kenwood CD 3860RA
6 disc CD
autochanger with
radio cassette.
£399.99 £349.99
Save £50



Sony XRC 550
RDS Radio Cassette.
£249.99 £199.99
Save £50



Pioneer KEH 1530 Radio Cassette. £139.99 £119.99 Save £20

Panasonic CQDP 800 CD tuner. £209.99 £179.99 Save £30

Alpine TDM 7548R Radio Cassette. £249.99 £199.99 Save £50

Blaupunkt custom fit speakers. £45 £22.49 Save 50%

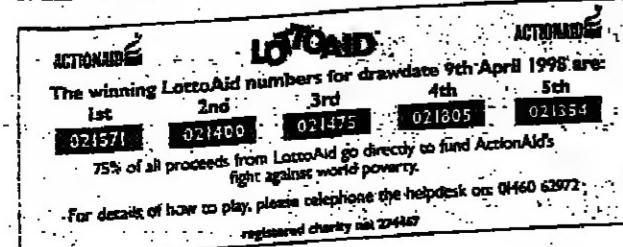
Plus many more reductions in-store.

We also offer a fitting service at any Halfords garage, or at your home or place of work. Call stores for details.

OPEN ALL EASTER WEEKEND.

HALFORDS

CALL 0345 626 625 FOR YOUR NEAREST SUPERSTORE. SUPERSTORES OPEN 9AM-8PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM-6PM WEEKENDS. CHECK HIGH STREET STORE TIMES LOCALLY. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.



Divided Korea: First the superpowers now dogma prevent any contact between North and South

War and politics keep families apart for half a century

By Richard Lloyd Parry
in Seoul

FIFTY-one years ago, Cho Dong Young left his home in the town of Sinuiju to study at university in the Korean capital, Seoul. It was 1947, the northern half of Korea was in an edgy state, and he was glad to get away. "I felt a lot of dislike for the communists, and I didn't like the fact that the Americans and Russians had divided Korea along the 38th parallel," says Mr Cho. "I guessed that unification was going to be difficult, since neither of the superpowers really seemed to want it. But I thought that I would be able to go back any time I wanted to."

Mr Cho left his parents and five brothers and sisters behind - he expected to see them again in a couple of years at the most. But, 51 years later, Mr Cho is still trying to make the 210-mile journey between Seoul and Sinuiju. Apart from a brother, who escaped to the South a few years later, he has never seen any of his family. He never received a letter or a telephone call. He assumes that both his parents are dead, and his youngest sister must now be 64, if she survived the Korean War and the famine presently believed to be ravaging the North. Mr Cho is 76, and he knows that time is running out.

idists and both of them in the last few years victims of stinging economic problems. Successive Korean leaders have promised to sort out the problem. The latest of them was Kim Dae Jung, the former dissident and now president of South Korea, who has referred repeatedly to the problem. "Numerous members of separated families have grown old and are passing away," he said during his inaugural address. "We must let those ones separated from their families in the North and South meet and communicate with one another as soon as possible."

In 1945, in what should have been a joyous moment of liberation from the Japanese, they found themselves divided first along the 38th parallel and, after the 1950-53 Korean War, along an irregular line close to it.

In the chaos before the Korean War, some 10 million people - about 5 million from each side - found themselves separated from their families, a hangover of the Second World War. "Other countries were divided, but our case is unique," says Mr Cho, who now heads the Korean Assembly for Reunion of Ten Million Separated Families. "Germany was divided, but there were still exchanges between families. Korea is the last country on earth where even letters cannot be sent between the two parts."

At the root of the problem is the intense, fratricidal bitterness between the governments of the North and South, one run by doctrinaire communists, the other by American-backed cap-



Posters call for aid to famine stricken North Koreans on a telephone booth in Seoul.

Photograph: Ahn Young-joon/AP

Ministers in talks to bring relatives together

SOUTH KOREA said yesterday it was going into bilateral talks with North Korea which would include discussions on the reuniting of families separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War. The delegations will also discuss the urgent issue of fertiliser aid for the famine-stricken North.

The meeting, the first high-level government talks since the death of the North Korean leader Kim Il Sung in 1994, was scheduled to take place in Peking yesterday.

"At the Peking meeting, the two sides will take up the issue of fertiliser, but that will not overshadow the humanitarian concerns over the reunion of separated families," the South Korean presidential spokesman Park Jie-won said.

Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean President, has said he wanted to increase economic exchanges with North Korea, but he has also insisted that family reunions cannot be delayed.

Pyongyang proposed the vice-minister-level talks mainly to discuss fertiliser aid. South Korea's agenda includes an exchange of special envoys and a summit, as well as family reunions. Analysts said South Korea would use disbursement of the fertiliser to win concessions from the North in other areas.

— Reuters, Seoul

40% OFF*

plus AN EXTRA 10% OFF[†]
THIS EASTER WEEKEND

BLOOMSBURY 30% OFF[†]

(NOW THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL AN EASTER OFFER)

At Magnet every single kitchen is designed not only to look stunningly beautiful, it's built to take everything life can throw at it. And right now there's a fantastic 40% off* most Magnet kitchen and bedroom cabinets, plus an extra 10% off this Easter weekend. There are some great offers on Whirlpool and appliances too. Simply call in at your local Magnet showroom and find out why all Magnet products are designed for living and built for life. Your life. With over 200 stores nationwide there's bound to be a Magnet showroom near you. Telephone 0800 192 192 for details of your nearest store. Remember to quote code IND288.

Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

Offer valid Saturday 18th April. Easter Sunday England and Wales, all other days and Bank Holiday Monday 20th April. Excludes delivery, fitting and delivery. Offers available from 9am-5pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings, Friday evenings and all day Saturday. Click and collect. *Subject to availability. Offers are off promotional prices between £250-£1,000. Use code IND288. Offer ends 21st April 1998. Price excludes VAT. All promotional prices subject to VAT at 17.5% or more.

Karadzic arrest 'in days'

By Rupert Cornwell

THE question is no longer if but where, when and how Radovan Karadzic, former leader of the Bosnian Serbs but now a fugitive war criminal, hands himself over to face trial by an international tribunal which has indicted him on two counts of genocide.

Yesterday Western diplomats sounded more confident than ever that Mr Karadzic could give himself up to the United Nations court in The Hague within weeks, or even days. His exact whereabouts are a mystery. Accounts place him variously in Serbia, Belarus, Russia or still inside Bosnia.

But officials say he has been

in contact with Biljana Plavsic and Milorad Dodik, the president and prime minister of the Bosnian Serb Republic set up by the 1995 Dayton accords which ended the Bosnian war, to explore the terms of a surrender. Chief of his conditions is understood to be a guarantee that in the event of being convicted and jailed, he would serve the sentence in an Orthodox Christian country.

The arrest of Mr Karadzic would be a big boost to the steadily growing authority of the court, which has already taken into custody 25 of the 74 people indicted for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. It would also increase pressure on General Ratko Mladic, the former

Bosnian Serb military commander who shares equal billing with Mr Karadzic on the UN wanted list.

General Mladic is said to be living under military protection in Belgrade or Bosnia. But he will have observed the crumbling of protection for Mr Karadzic as the more moderate Bosnian Serb leadership under Mrs Plavsic has consolidated its position. That vulnerability was underlined last week when a Nato force "by coincidence" rummaged into Mr Karadzic's erstwhile headquarters of Pale. Reading the omens, the former leader went into hiding. But Elisabeth Rehn, the UN envoy to Bosnia, predicts he will be in The Hague "quite soon".

WANTED, SIXTEEN YEAR OLDS CAPABLE OF LEADING AN ARMY

The Army is looking for young men and women who would like to receive £350 per term during their sixth form education.

Young men and women mature enough to show that they have the intelligence and self-confidence needed to become Officers. Who, after university, can commit themselves to a minimum 3 years service.

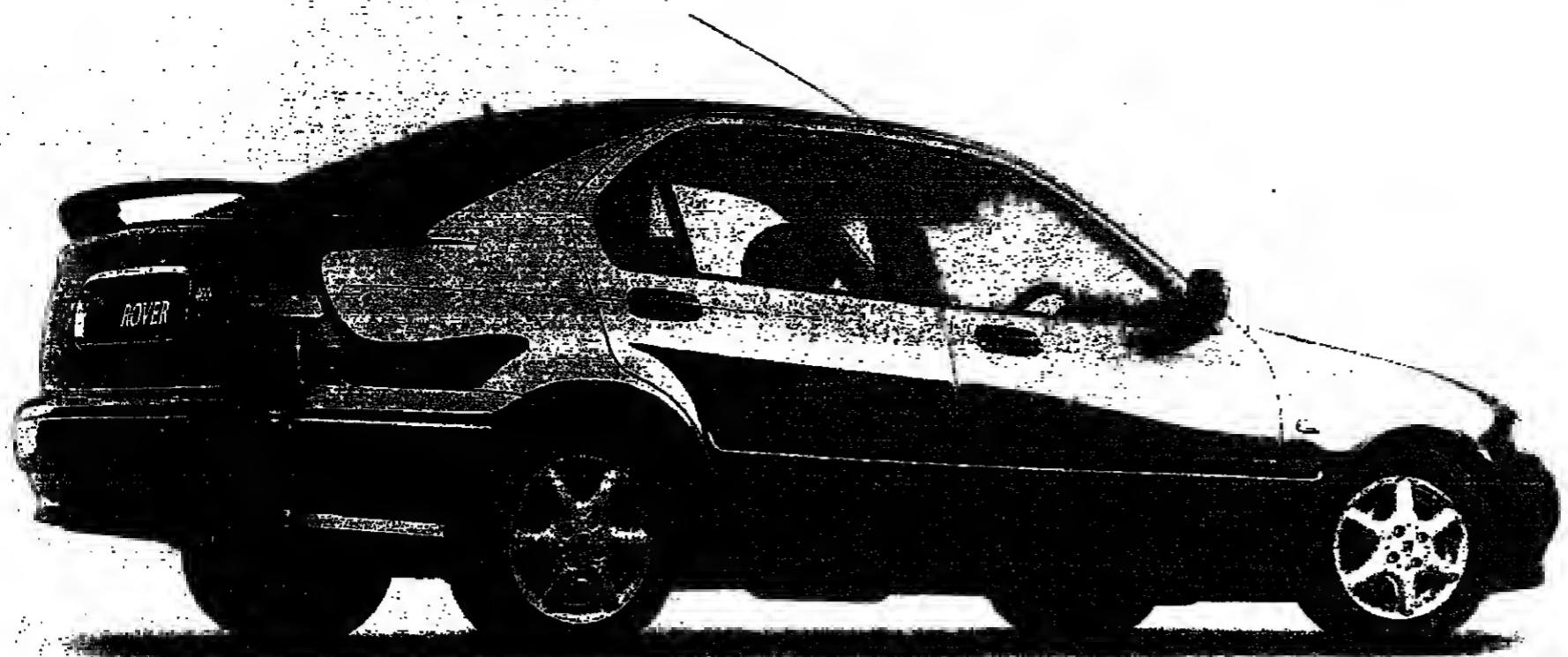
To find out more about Army Scholarships, return the coupon today. (Successful applicants will get used to making such quick decisions.)

For full details of Army Scholarships schemes, send the coupon to: Freepost, The Army, CY27 BRK, to 0800 300 777 (morning post).

ARMY
BE THE BEST
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TODAY!
The Army is committed to equal opportunities.

مکانیک اتومبیل

and South
Ministers
in talks
to bring
relatives
together



ALLOYS
SPOILER
ROVER 414S
HIGHLINE
A PRICE OF
£12,000
IT ALMOST
IRRESISTIBLE

'in days'
TED,
EN
OLDS
BLE
ADING
RMY

The most remarkable thing about the price of this car is not that you're getting all these features. But the fact you're getting a Rover.

For more information call 0345 186 186, or visit www.rovercars.com.



Palestinian identity forged in the wilderness

In the second part of our series on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, **Patrick Cockburn** looks at the changing tactics in the Arab struggle and, below, **Robert Fisk** reports on the losers of 1948

FOR 50 years the Palestinians have practised the politics of weakness. "There was no such thing as the Palestinian people," said Golda Meir, the Israeli prime minister, 30 years ago. "When was there an independent Palestinian people with a Palestinian state? It was not as though there was a Palestinian people in Palestine considering itself as a Palestinian people and we came and threw them out and took their country from them. They did not exist."

fact was that Israel did not allow them to return and took over their property.

Arguments about exactly what happened in 1948 retain their political potency half a century after the event. For instance, 50,000 Palestinians were expelled from Lydda (now Lod) and Ramleh, south-east of Tel Aviv. The Israeli position was that they left voluntarily. When Yitzhak Rabin came to write his memoirs he recalled: "The pop-

The very fervour of Mrs Meir's denial may point to a hidden unease or guilt about the fate of the Palestinians, as if the tragedy of their flight in 1948 would be the less because they never had a state of their own. The fact that they left is not in dispute: some 700,000 Palestinians living in what became Israel lost their homes and became refugees. Another 150,000 were able to stay, mainly in Galilee.

It is a measure of the failure of the Palestinians to make their case successfully that even after what they termed *al-Nakba* – the Catastrophe – their existence as a people should be doubted or they should have to justify their flight in the middle of war. The most important

Many years later we said too much for the cabinet committee which vetted ministerial memoirs for security breaches. They admitted what Rabin had written was true, but said it could not be published "because it will ruin our claim that we acted humanely". Rabin was angry, but agreed to the

censorship. What he had really written about the expulsion of the Palestinians from Lod was only revealed because his English translator already had a copy of the uncut manuscript and passed on the deleted passage to the *New York Times*. Palestinian nationalism was

Palestinian nationalism was not created by 1948, but it was transformed by it. Palestinians had entered, said Fawaz Turki, a Palestinian writer, the "world of the exile. The world of the occupied. The world of the refugee. The world of the ghetto. The world of the stateless." Palestinians fled in the first instance to the West Bank and Gaza, but they also began to create a Palestinian diaspora in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Gulf states and beyond.

If the Palestinian ability to resist was destroyed by defeat and flight in Israel's war of independence it was, in a sense, reborn in the defeat of the Arabs in 1967. Yasser Arafat, by then becoming the unchallenged Palestinian leader, reputedly met George Habash, leading a more radical faction, in a café in Damascus. Habash said: "Everything is lost." Arafat replied: "George, you are wrong. It is not the end. It's the beginning." The defeat of the



Generations of struggle: A masked Palestinian activist burns an Israeli flag during a campaign for votes ahead of student council elections in April last year at Hebron university. Palestinian nationalism was not created by 1948, but it was transformed by it. Photograph: Hashim al-Najjar/Reuters

Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian armies discredited Arab regimes. It gave greater leeway for the Palestinians to act on their own. With the rise of Arafat, his movement Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, they possessed a

more effective leadership than ever before. Israel, through its conquest of the West Bank and Gaza, was once again ruling large numbers of Palestinians, though the political consequences of this took 20 years to develop.

The problem for the PLO was that its growing strength as an organisation in exile, drawing its support from Palestinian refugees, inevitably brought it into conflict with whatever country it was based in. Its presence attracted Israeli retaliation. It

leader. He tried to maintain Palestinian consensus. But he has a fondness for cronies in command, his military organisation is weak and is invariably poor at presenting the Palestinian case.

Palestinian standard of living by 30 per cent as Israel sealed off the newly autonomous enclaves. Not surprisingly, many Palestinians thought the agreement was geared to solving Israel's problems and not their own by creating Palestinian "Bantustans" along the lines of the homelands created by the apartheid regime in South Africa. The six years in which Oslo was to be implemented gave Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, and the Israeli settlers on the West Bank time to derail it.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister since 1996, made clear that he was only going to grant strictly regulated autonomy in part of the West Bank. He would "lower Palestinian expectations". Going by the history of the last 50 years he will not succeed, because the Palestinian will for self-determination is too strong to contain.

Mourning never ceases for the land they lost

By Robert Fisk
in Chatila Camp, Beirut

10. **What is the primary purpose of the study?**

THE white rose petals lay scattered over the mass grave of Sabra and Chatila yesterday, their plastic wrappings churned into the mud. The ceremony 12 hours earlier had been a short one, a march by both Palestinians and Lebanese, candles in their hands, to mark the Israeli massacre of Palestinians at Deir Yassin exactly 50 years ago. Their commemoration at the site of the slaughter of yet more Palestinians — by Israel's Lebanese allies in 1982 — showed all too painfully what this year's anniversary means to the losers in the war for Israel's

no other status for the Palestinians here – their case is hopeless. The West Bank and Gaza were never their homes. But nor can Lebanon be their homeland. Despised by a population whose Christian community often and unfairly blame them for Lebanon's 16-year civil war, the 362,098 UN-registered Palestinians dream of a Return – they use the word – which can never take place. They cannot work or hold residence cards in Lebanon: if they leave, they have no automatic right to come back. Yass-

its place are stuck portraits of young men who tried vainly to reach the Israeli border – once the border of Palestine – to attack the country which prevented their parents from returning home. Pictures of Hamas "martyrs" – including the bomber Yahya Ayash assassinated by the Israelis in Gaza – are plastered along the narrow streets, for Islam is taking the place of nationalism in many homes. There is no sympathy for the innocent Israeli victims of Hamas suicide bombs.

er Arafat - once he realised that Oslo would not provide for them - cut off all their PLO funds.

WA, can do little to help. Suffering from a budget deficit of \$85m, the organisation can

.....

'It was a 50th anniversary even the dead might have wished to forget'

not stop the deterioration of refugee schools and hospitals. Since the PLO abandoned Beirut after encirclement by the Israeli army in 1982, Arafat has cared little or nothing for the Palestinians whose sons and

Palestinians whose sons and daughters died in their thousands for his "revolution" in Lebanon. When Israel's Phalangist allies massacred up to 2,000 Palestinians at Sabra and Chatila, after the Israeli army had surrounded the camps, Arafat was already on his way to safety in Tunis. Israel's own inquiry recorded how Israeli troops saw civilians being taken away for slaughter - and did nothing.

No wonder the Palestinian refugees of Lebanon are watching the final burial of the Oslo agreement with cynicism as well as despair. No wonder Arafat's face has been erased from al-

DIXONS

PRICE CHECK **PRICE**
WE CAN'T BE BEATEN

MOST STORES OPEN EASTER MONDAY

EASTER MEGA DEALS

UP TO 12 MONTHS
Interest Free Option*



SAVE A TOTAL OF £15

Canon AF7 NEW AUTOFOCUS CAMERA OUTFIT

- Large viewfinder.
- Built-in automatic flash.
- Self timer.

Was £69.99. £58.99.
In-store Price £57.99.

3 EXTRA FILMS Ask for details
VOUCHER PRICE £54.99

CHINON 8x25 RB BINOCULARS

- Unique PB optics.
- 8x magnification.
- Ultra-compact design.

Was £69.99.
In-store Price £39.99.

CHINON 8-2x25 RB BINOCULARS

- 8-2x zoom magnification.
- RB optics for a bright, clear image.
- Complete with case.

Was £59.99.
In-store Price £79.99.

ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM/COMPACT CAMERAS

ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM/COMPACT CAMERAS

OLYMPUS MU105 CHAMPAGNE ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA

- 38-105mm zoom lens.
- Switchable panoramic.
- Autofocus.
- Dateback.
- Weatherproof.

Was £169.99.
In-store Price £219.99.

FUJI FOTONEX 250 ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM ZOOM CAMERA

- 25-50mm zoom lens.
- Date/time/date backprinting.

Was £169.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

CANON SURESHOT Z60 ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA

- 32-60mm zoom lens.
- Built-in flash with red-eye reduction.
- Includes album, 2 films, case and battery.

Was £109.99.

CANON IXUS L-1 SILVER ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM CAMERA

- Canon 28mm lens.
- Built-in flash with red-eye reduction.

Was £169.99.
In-store Price £149.99.

35mm SLR CAMERAS

12 FREE FILMS

FREE ACCESSORIES Ask for details

CANON 500TW AUTOFOCUS TWIN LENS SLR CAMERA

- 28-80mm and 80-200mm Canon lenses.
- 12 months interest free option.

Was £399.99.
£349.99

Nikon F50 SILVER AUTOFOCUS SLR CAMERA

- 35-70mm zoom lens.
- 6 months interest free option.

Was £249.99.
£299.99

Canon EOS 5000 TW AUTOFOCUS TWIN LENS SLR CAMERA

- Canon 35-70mm and 80-200mm lenses.
- 3 point multiwide auto-focus.
- Full manual exposure.

In-store Price £299.99.
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

VOUCHER PRICE £289.99

DIXONS

There's a Great Deal going on

BINOCULARS FROM UNDER £35

MEGA DEAL
SAVE A TOTAL OF £35

MEGA DEAL
SAVE A TOTAL OF £85

MEGA DEAL
SAVE A TOTAL OF £74.99

MEGA DEAL
SAVE A TOTAL OF £199.99

MEGA DEAL
SAVE A TOTAL OF £10

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Dixons store to claim your discount.

*One voucher saving per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code J4 Head Office offer. HURRY! These vouchers will only be valid until Tuesday 25th April 1995.

3 WAYS TO BUY

350 STORES NATIONWIDE
ON-LINE SHOP:
www.dixons.co.uk
ORDER HOTLINE
08000 68 28 68

INTEREST Account is interest free if repaid in full before for with the 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th, 30th, 32nd, 34th, 36th, 38th, 40th, 42nd, 44th, 46th, 48th, 50th, 52nd, 54th, 56th, 58th, 60th, 62nd, 64th, 66th, 68th, 70th, 72nd, 74th, 76th, 78th, 80th, 82nd, 84th, 86th, 88th, 90th, 92nd, 94th, 96th, 98th, 100th, 102nd, 104th, 106th, 108th, 110th, 112th, 114th, 116th, 118th, 120th, 122nd, 124th, 126th, 128th, 130th, 132nd, 134th, 136th, 138th, 140th, 142nd, 144th, 146th, 148th, 150th, 152nd, 154th, 156th, 158th, 160th, 162nd, 164th, 166th, 168th, 170th, 172nd, 174th, 176th, 178th, 180th, 182nd, 184th, 186th, 188th, 190th, 192nd, 194th, 196th, 198th, 200th, 202nd, 204th, 206th, 208th, 210th, 212nd, 214th, 216th, 218th, 220th, 222nd, 224th, 226th, 228th, 230th, 232nd, 234th, 236th, 238th, 240th, 242nd, 244th, 246th, 248th, 250th, 252nd, 254th, 256th, 258th, 260th, 262nd, 264th, 266th, 268th, 270th, 272nd, 274th, 276th, 278th, 280th, 282nd, 284th, 286th, 288th, 290th, 292nd, 294th, 296th, 298th, 300th, 302nd, 304th, 306th, 308th, 310th, 312nd, 314th, 316th, 318th, 320th, 322nd, 324th, 326th, 328th, 330th, 332nd, 334th, 336th, 338th, 340th, 342nd, 344th, 346th, 348th, 350th, 352nd, 354th, 356th, 358th, 360th, 362nd, 364th, 366th, 368th, 370th, 372nd, 374th, 376th, 378th, 380th, 382nd, 384th, 386th, 388th, 390th, 392nd, 394th, 396th, 398th, 400th, 402nd, 404th, 406th, 408th, 410th, 412nd, 414th, 416th, 418th, 420th, 422nd, 424th, 426th, 428th, 430th, 432nd, 434th, 436th, 438th, 440th, 442nd, 444th, 446th, 448th, 450th, 452nd, 454th, 456th, 458th, 460th, 462nd, 464th, 466th, 468th, 470th, 472nd, 474th, 476th, 478th, 480th, 482nd, 484th, 486th, 488th, 490th, 492nd, 494th, 496th, 498th, 500th, 502nd, 504th, 506th, 508th, 510th, 512nd, 514th, 516th, 518th, 520th, 522nd, 524th, 526th, 528th, 530th, 532nd, 534th, 536th, 538th, 540th, 542nd, 544th, 546th, 548th, 550th, 552nd, 554th, 556th, 558th, 560th, 562nd, 564th, 566th, 568th, 570th, 572nd, 574th, 576th, 578th, 580th, 582nd, 584th, 586th, 588th, 590th, 592nd, 594th, 596th, 598th, 600th, 602nd, 604th, 606th, 608th, 610th, 612nd, 614th, 616th, 618th, 620th, 622nd, 624th, 626th, 628th, 630th, 632nd, 634th, 636th, 638th, 640th, 642nd, 644th, 646th, 648th, 650th, 652nd, 654th, 656th, 658th, 660th, 662nd, 664th, 666th, 668th, 670th, 672nd, 674th, 676th, 678th, 680th, 682nd, 684th, 686th, 688th, 690th, 692nd, 694th, 696th, 698th, 700th, 702nd, 704th, 706th, 708th, 710th, 712nd, 714th, 716th, 718th, 720th, 722nd, 724th, 726th, 728th, 730th, 732nd, 734th, 736th, 738th, 740th, 742nd, 744th, 746th, 748th, 750th, 752nd, 754th, 756th, 758th, 760th, 762nd, 764th, 766th, 768th, 770th, 772nd, 774th, 776th, 778th, 780th, 782nd, 784th, 786th, 788th, 790th, 792nd, 794th, 796th, 798th, 800th, 802nd, 804th, 806th, 808th, 810th, 812nd, 814th, 816th, 818th, 820th, 822nd, 824th, 826th, 828th, 830th, 832nd, 834th, 836th, 838th, 840th, 842nd, 844th, 846th, 848th, 850th, 852nd, 854th, 856th, 858th, 860th, 862nd, 864th, 866th, 868th, 870th, 872nd, 874th, 876th, 878th, 880th, 882nd, 884th, 886th, 888th, 890th, 892nd, 894th, 896th, 898th, 900th, 902nd, 904th, 906th, 908th, 910th, 912nd, 914th, 916th, 918th, 920th, 922nd, 924th, 926th, 928th, 930th, 932nd, 934th, 936th, 938th, 940th, 942nd, 944th, 946th, 948th, 950th, 952nd, 954th, 956th, 958th, 960th, 962nd, 964th, 966th, 968th, 970th, 972nd, 974th, 976th, 978th, 980th, 982nd, 984th, 986th, 988th, 990th, 992nd, 994th, 996th, 998th, 1000th, 1002nd, 1004th, 1006th, 1008th, 1010th, 1012nd, 1014th, 1016th, 1018th, 1020th, 1022nd, 1024th, 1026th, 1028th, 1030th, 1032nd, 1034th, 1036th, 1038th, 1040th, 1042nd, 1044th, 1046th, 1048th, 1050th, 1052nd, 1054th, 1056th, 1058th, 1060th, 1062nd, 1064th, 1066th, 1068th, 1070th, 1072nd, 1074th, 1076th, 1078th, 1080th, 1082nd, 1084th, 1086th, 1088th, 1090th, 1092nd, 1094th, 1096th, 1098th, 1100th, 1102nd, 1104th, 1106th, 1108th, 1110th, 1112nd, 1114th, 1116th, 1118th, 1120th, 1122nd, 1124th, 1126th, 1128th, 1130th, 1132nd, 1134th, 1136th, 1138th, 1140th, 1142nd, 1144th, 1146th, 1148th, 1150th, 1152nd, 1154th, 1156th, 1158th, 1160th, 1162nd, 1164th, 1166th, 1168th, 1170th, 1172nd, 1174th, 1176th, 1178th, 1180th, 1182nd, 1184th, 1186th, 1188th, 1190th, 1192nd, 1194th, 1196th, 1198th, 1200th, 1202nd, 1204th, 1206th, 1208th, 1210th, 1212nd, 1214th, 1216th, 1218th, 1220th, 1222nd, 1224th, 1226th, 1228th, 1230th, 1232nd, 1234th, 1236th, 1238th, 1240th, 1242nd, 1244th, 1246th, 1248th, 1250th, 1252nd, 1254th, 1256th, 1258th, 1260th, 1262nd, 1264th, 1266th, 1268th, 1270th, 1272nd, 1274th, 1276th, 1278th, 1280th, 1282nd, 1284th, 1286th, 1288th, 1290th, 1292nd, 1294th, 1296th, 1298th, 1300th, 1302nd, 1304th, 1306th, 1308th, 1310th, 1312nd, 1314th, 1316th, 1318th, 1320th, 1322nd, 1324th, 1326th, 1328th, 1330th, 1332nd, 1334th, 1336th, 1338th, 1340th, 1342nd, 1344th, 1346th, 1348th, 1350th, 1352nd, 1354th, 1356th, 1358th, 1360th, 1362nd, 1364th, 1366th, 1368th, 1370th, 1372nd, 1374th, 1376th, 1378th, 1380th, 1382nd, 1384th, 1386th, 1388th, 1390th, 1392nd, 1394th, 1396th, 1398th, 1400th, 1402nd, 1404th, 1406th, 1408th, 1410th, 1412nd, 1414th, 1416th, 1418th, 1420th, 1422nd, 1424th, 1426th, 1428th, 1430th, 1432nd, 1434th, 1436th, 1438th, 1440th, 1442nd, 1444th, 1446th, 1448th, 1450th, 1452nd, 1454th, 1456th, 1458th, 1460th, 1462nd, 1464th, 1466th, 1468th, 1470th, 1472nd, 1474th, 1476th, 1478th, 1480th, 1482nd, 1484th, 1486th, 1488th, 1490th, 1492nd, 1494th, 1496th, 1498th, 1500th, 1502nd, 1504th, 1506th, 1508th, 1510th, 1512nd, 1514th, 1516th, 1518th, 1520th, 1522nd, 1524th, 1526th, 1528th, 1530th, 1532nd, 1534th, 1536th, 1538th, 1540th, 1542nd, 1544th, 1546th, 1548th, 1550th, 1552nd, 1554th, 1556th, 1558th, 1560th, 1562nd, 1564th, 1566th, 1568th, 1570th, 1572nd, 1574th, 1576th, 1578th, 1580th, 1582nd, 1584th, 1586th, 1588th, 1590th, 1592nd, 1594th, 1596th, 1598th, 1600th, 1602nd, 1604th, 1606th, 1608th, 1610th, 1612nd, 1614th, 1616th, 1618th, 1620th, 1622nd, 1624th, 1626th, 1628th, 1630th, 1632nd, 1634th, 1636th, 1638th, 1640th, 1642nd, 1644th, 1646th, 1648th, 1650th, 1652nd, 1654th, 1656th, 1658th, 1660th, 1662nd, 1664th, 1666th, 1668th, 1670th, 1672nd, 1674th, 1676th, 1678th, 1680th, 1682nd, 1684th, 1686th, 1688th, 1690th, 1692nd, 1694th, 1696th, 1698th, 1700th, 1702nd, 1704th, 1706th, 1708th, 1710th, 1712nd, 1714th, 1716th, 1718th, 1720th, 1722nd, 1724th, 1726th, 1728th, 1730th, 1732nd, 1734th, 1736th, 1738th, 1740th, 1742nd, 1744th, 1746th, 1748th, 1750th, 1752nd, 1754th, 1756th, 1758th, 1760th, 1762nd, 1764th, 1766th, 1768th, 1770th, 1772nd, 1774th, 1776th, 1778th, 1780th, 1782nd, 1784th, 1786th, 1788th, 1790th, 1792nd, 1794th, 1796th, 1798th, 1800th, 1802nd, 1804th, 1806th, 1808th, 1810th, 1812nd, 1814th, 1816th, 1818th, 1820th, 1822nd, 1824th, 1826th, 1828th, 1830th, 1832nd, 1834th, 1836th, 1838th, 1840th, 1842nd, 1844th, 1846th, 1848th, 1850th, 1852nd, 1854th, 1856th, 1858th, 1860th, 1862nd, 1864th, 1866th, 1868th, 1870th, 1872nd, 1874th, 1876th, 1878th, 1880th, 1882nd, 1884th, 1886th, 1888th, 1890th, 1892nd, 1894th, 1896th, 1898th, 1900th, 1902nd, 1904th, 1906th, 1908th, 1910th, 1912nd, 1914th, 1916th, 1918th, 1920th, 1922nd, 1924th, 1926th, 1928th, 1930th, 1932nd, 1934th, 1936th, 1938th, 1940th, 1942nd, 1944th, 1946th, 1948th, 1950th, 1952nd, 1954th, 1956th, 1958th, 1960th, 1962nd, 1964th, 1966th, 1968th, 1970th, 1972nd, 1974th, 1976th, 1978th, 1980th, 1982nd, 1984th, 1986th, 1988th, 1990th, 1992nd, 1994th, 1996th, 1998th, 2000th, 2002nd, 2004th, 2006th, 2008th, 2010th, 2012nd, 2014th, 2016th, 2018th, 2020th, 2022nd, 2024th, 2026th, 2028th, 2030th, 2032nd, 2034th, 2036th, 2038th, 2040th, 2042nd, 2044th, 2046th, 2048th, 2050th, 2052nd, 2054th, 2056th, 2058th, 2060th, 2062nd, 2064th, 2066th, 2068th, 2070th, 2072nd, 2074th, 2076th, 2078th, 2080th, 2082nd, 2084th, 2086th, 2088th, 2090th, 2092nd, 2094th, 2096th, 2098th, 2100th, 2102nd, 2104th, 2106th, 2108th, 2110th, 2112nd, 2114th, 2116th, 2118th, 2120th, 2122nd, 2124th, 2126th, 2128th, 2130th, 2132nd, 2134th, 2136th, 2138th, 2140th, 2142nd, 2144th, 2146th, 2148th, 2150th, 2152nd, 2154th, 2156th, 2158th, 2160th, 2162nd, 2164th, 2166th, 2168th, 2170th, 2172nd, 2174th, 2176th, 2178th, 2180th, 2182nd, 2184th, 2186th, 2188th, 2190th, 2192nd, 2194th, 2196th, 2198th, 2200th, 2202nd, 2204th, 2206th, 2208th, 2210th, 2212nd, 2214th, 2216th, 2218th, 2220th, 2222nd, 2224th, 2226th, 2228th, 2230th, 2232nd, 2234th, 2236th, 2238th, 2240th, 2242nd, 2244th, 2246th, 2248th, 2250th, 2252nd, 2254th, 2256th, 2258th, 2260th, 2262nd, 2264th, 2266th, 2268th, 2270th, 2272nd, 2274th, 2276th, 2278th, 2280th, 2282nd, 2284th, 2286th, 2288th, 2290th, 2292nd, 2294th, 2296th, 2298th, 2300th, 2302nd, 2304th, 2306th, 2308th, 2310th, 2312nd, 2314th, 2316th, 2318th, 2320th, 2322nd, 2324th, 2326th, 2328th, 2330th, 2332nd, 2334th, 2336th, 2338th, 2340th, 2342nd, 2344th, 2346th, 2348th, 2350th, 2352nd, 2354th, 2356th, 2358th, 2360th, 2362nd, 2364th, 2366th, 2368th, 2370th, 2372nd, 2374th, 2376th, 2378th, 2380th, 2382nd, 2384th, 2386th, 2388th, 2390th, 2392nd, 2394th, 2396th, 2398th, 2400th, 2402nd, 2404th, 2406th, 2408th, 2410th, 2412nd, 2414th, 2416th, 2418th, 2420th, 2422nd, 2424th, 2426th, 2428th, 2430th, 2432nd, 2434th, 2436th, 2438th, 2440th, 2442nd, 2444th, 2446th, 2448th, 2450th, 2452nd, 2454th, 2456th, 2458th, 2460th, 2462nd, 2464th, 2466th, 2468th, 2470th, 2472nd, 2474th, 2476th, 2478th, 2480th, 2482nd, 2484th, 2486th, 2488th, 2490th, 2492nd, 2494th, 2496th, 2498th, 2500th, 2502nd, 2504th, 2506th, 2508th, 2510th, 2512nd, 2514th, 2516th, 2518th, 2520th, 2522nd, 2524th, 2526th, 2528th, 2530th, 2532nd, 2534th, 2536th, 2538th, 2540th, 2542nd, 2544th, 2546th, 2548th, 2550th, 2552nd, 2554th, 2556th, 2558th, 2560th, 2562nd, 2564th, 2566th, 2568th, 2570th, 2572nd, 2574th, 2576th, 2578th, 2580th, 2582nd, 2584th, 2586th, 2588th, 2590th, 2592nd, 2594th, 2596th, 2598th, 2600th, 2602nd, 2604th, 2606th, 2608th, 2610th, 2612nd, 2614th, 2616th, 2618th, 2620th, 2622nd, 2624th, 2626th, 2628th, 2630th, 2632nd, 2634th, 2636th, 2638th, 2640th, 2642nd, 2644th, 2646th, 2648th, 2650th, 2652nd, 2654th, 2656th, 2658th, 2660th, 2662nd, 2664th, 2666th, 2668th, 2670th, 2672nd, 2674th, 2676th, 2678th, 2680th, 2682nd, 2684th, 2686th, 2688th, 2690th, 2692nd, 2694th, 2696th, 2698th, 2700th, 2702nd, 2704th, 2706th, 2708th, 2710th, 2712nd, 2714th, 2716th, 2718th, 2720th, 2722nd, 2724th, 2726th, 2728th, 2730th, 2732nd, 2734th, 2736th, 2738th, 2740th, 2742nd, 2744th, 2746th, 2748th, 2750th, 2752nd, 2754th, 2756th, 2758th, 2760th, 2762nd, 2764th, 2766th, 2768th, 2770th, 2772nd, 2774th, 2776th, 2778th, 2780th, 2782nd, 2784th, 2786th, 2788th, 2790th, 2792nd, 2794th, 2796th, 2798th, 2800th, 2802nd, 2804th, 2806th, 2808th, 2810th, 2812nd, 2814th, 2816th, 2818th, 2820th, 2822nd, 2824th, 2826th, 2828th, 2830th, 2832nd, 2834th, 2836th, 2838th, 2840th, 2842nd, 2844th, 2846th, 2848th, 2850th, 2852nd, 2854th, 2856th, 2858th, 2860th, 2862nd, 2864th, 2866th, 2868th, 2870th, 2872nd, 2874th, 2876th, 2878th, 2880th, 2882nd, 2884th, 2886th, 2888th, 2890th, 2892nd, 2894th, 2896th, 2898th, 2900th, 2902nd, 2904th, 2906th, 2908th, 2910th, 2912nd, 2914th, 2916th, 2918th, 2920th, 2922nd, 2924th, 2926th, 2928th, 2930th, 2932nd, 2934th, 2936th, 2938th, 2940th, 2942nd, 2944th, 2946th, 294

balance of £16,715 before the 10th monthly payment. (Total, payable £349.59 interest 0%)
OR
29.5% (TOTAL PAYABLE £624.68 APR 29.5%)
Dest FC 1K, M5, and A1-type Herts Herts HPC 7TG. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland)

جكتافن الاصغر

Master of modern ballet is saved from life as a tramp in New York

By David Usborne
in New York

WHEN an ambulance stopped to scoop him up from the street one cold evening last month, Arthur Bell was just another of New York's homeless wanderers. Barely able to stand, he found himself deposited in a local hospital. From there, he would soon have been sent to a shelter. But for his burlings.

The 71-year-old black man with frostbite on his feet was telling anyone who would listen about a long-ago life in London and Paris and about some improbable acquaintances in the world of ballet, including such late greats as Sir Frederick Ashton and Margot Fonteyn. Senile dementia, the nurses assumed.

"And they went, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah,'" recalled Maria Mackin, the social worker assigned to the case. But Ms Mackin, who herself used to photograph dancers for a ballet shoe company, began to listen more carefully. She checked out his stories at the New York Library for Performing Arts.

"I was absolutely thrilled," Ms Mackin said. "I thought, oh my God, this is incredible, if this is true. And I really believed it was true and that the world had let this man slip through the cracks."

And indeed, this old man, who this weekend remains in a nursing home in Queens, has been over-modest. One of nine children of a Florida preacher, Mr Bell was not only a dancer, but one of the first black dancers to break the race barrier in ballet after the Second



Arthur Bell holds a pose from Ashton's 'Illuminations'. Despite having lived on the street he still retains the slender grace of a dancer
Photograph: Fred R. Conrad/AP

World War. His proudest moment came in Manhattan in 1950, when Ashton chose him as a guest soloist in the world premiere of 'Illuminations', based a collection of French poems by Arthur Rimbaud. He returned to New York in the 1960s and worked odd clerical jobs. Then his life and his fortunes began to slip away.

"It was just amazing to me that one of my patients was

called to Paris, where he danced with the Théâtre des Champs Elysées and, he says, lived in the same rooming house as the author James Baldwin. He returned to New York in the 1960s and worked odd clerical jobs. Then his life and his fortunes began to slip away.

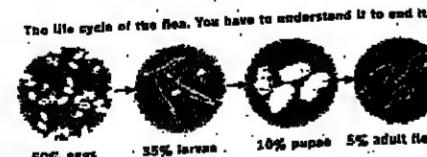
As he learns to walk again with a stick, Bell says he is not bothered that he will never dance again, because "whoever you love something, the love for it just goes beyond anything. Dancing is in my soul."

These eggs came from fleas killed by a typical insecticide. So, they'll be back...



Believe it or not, developing flea eggs can lie dormant around the home for up to a year. They lurk unseen in carpet bedding and furniture until they hatch - long after any conventional insecticides have lost their effectiveness.

Understanding the life cycle of the flea. And ending it.



So no new fleas are hatched. PROGRAM keeps on being effective - eliminating the chance of an infestation on your pet or in your home.

Clean, simple and effective, all day every day.

PROGRAM is given once a month in your pet's food, or alternatively, just for cats, as a six-monthly injection by your vet. There is no mess or residue. Nothing can be washed off, huffed off or rubbed off onto furniture. That's why PROGRAM is so effective.

Ask your vet about PROGRAM.

PROGRAM is made by Novartis, the world's leading life sciences company. Its high safety profile is proven on over 50 million cats and dogs worldwide. That's why it's strongly recommended, even for puppies, kittens and pregnant females. See your vet to make sure your pet's protection is assured with PROGRAM.

Now available from your vet:
PROGRAM Injectable for cats:
Six months' protection in one injection



Call our customer careline on 0345 573912
(9am-5pm, Monday to Friday; calls charged at local rate)
www.programpet.com

PROGRAM Making life impossible for fleas.

PROGRAM and PROGRAM Injectable are trademarks or trade names of Novartis AG, Basle, Switzerland.
© Novartis Animal Health Inc., 1997
www.novartis.com

Setback for Yeltsin as his protégé is rejected

By Phil Reeves
in Moscow

EVERYONE always knew Boris Yeltsin's young prime minister had about as much chance of being confirmed in his job by Russia's parliament yesterday as Bill Clinton has of becoming Pope. But the man they call the "little computer" put up a respectable fight. It laid the ground for probable victory in the future.

As Russia approaches its fourth week without a government, the Kremlin will now mount an aggressive campaign on behalf of Sergei Kiriyenko, 35, in the hope of persuading parliament to approve him on a second vote, possibly next week. The little known former provincial banker yesterday won 143 of the 220 votes he needed to be confirmed by the 450-seat State Duma, or lower house: 186 voted against.

However, his rejection was an inevitable part of the haggle between the Kremlin and

parliament - which yesterday was revelling in the chance to flex its muscles at the president. Within 40 minutes Mr Yeltsin renominated his protege's name, insisting he had no other candidate for the job which became vacant when he unexpectedly sacked Viktor Chernomyrdin and his government last month.

The constitution states that the president must dissolve parliament if it rejects his nomination three times and hold new elections.

That outcome, never likely, receded still further yesterday when Mr Kiriyenko faced the Communist-dominated chamber. He was neither dazzling, amusing, nor loud. But his speech kept intact his reputation as a smart young technocrat: he was self-assured, and well-informed. Earlier, Boris Yeltsin had used his weekly national radio address to wax lyrical about his "professional manager" who spurns "cheap publicity".

Mr Kiriyenko played that



Sergei Kiriyenko: Gave a good account of himself

part to perfection. His speech was that of a reformer, but one with a gentler touch than the tough-nut pro-market leaders led by Anatoly Chubais. Industrial growth and a strong rouble were priorities but he promised more social protection. "Over the past half a year the government has said the economy is growing," he said. "But why has not a single resident felt this?"

The Communists leader, Gennady Zyuganov, instructed his troops to abstain, saying Mr Yeltsin would never get their support unless he changed course. In a surprise move, the erratic ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky also withdrew his party's support.

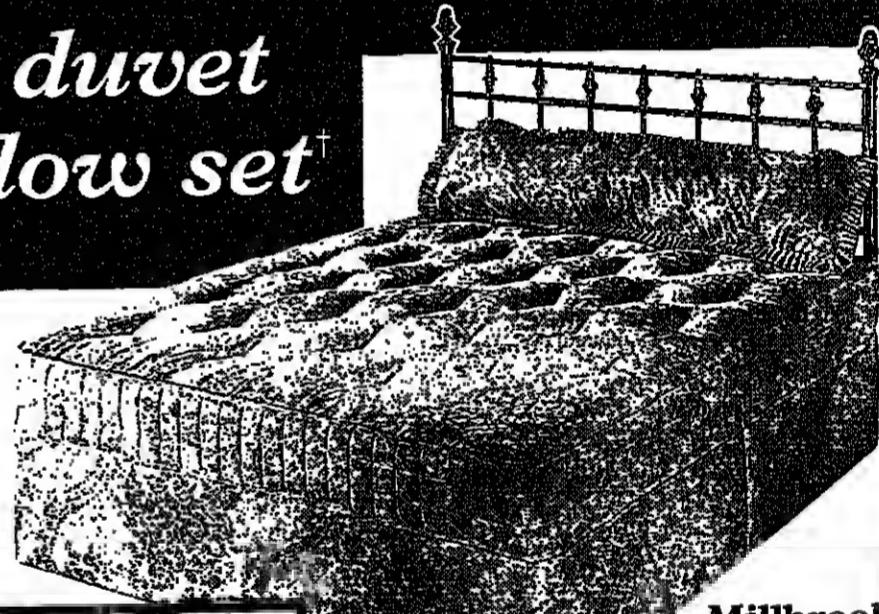
This prolonged limbo is proving revealing: seven years after the end of the Soviet Union, party politics has become a dirty word in government. Thus, Mr Kiriyenko's promise to create a cabinet of "professionals". Thus, too, his boast to the chamber: "I am absolutely independent and do not intend to obey anybody apart from President Boris Yeltsin."

Yesterday he named four ministers whom he proposed to keep in his cabinet: Mikhail Zamorov (Finance); Igor Sergeev (Defence); Yevgeny Primakov (Foreign) and Sergei Stepashin (Interior). All were publicly named by his boss days ago.

This Easter at Allied Carpets

50% OFF Beds plus this holiday weekend

if you buy a bed we'll give you a
**free duvet
and pillow set**



Millbrook
Ensign



Rest Assured Sussex with Free Single 12 Tog Duvet & Pillow.
Single bed. Deep hand tufted mattress with traditional coil springs luxury fillings and Damask cover.

WAS £319.95

Silentnight Serene with Free Double 12 Tog Duvet & 2 Pillows.
Double size storage bed. Mattress contains unique 'No Roll Together' Ultimate Sleep System. Base has two side drawers and large end drawer.

WAS £599.95

Cumflax Ortho Crown with Free Double 12 Tog Duvet & 2 Pillows.
Double end drawer bed. The quilted mattress has firm gauge Bonnel coil springs, and quality fillings on a firm top base. Providing firm comfortable support.

WAS £659.95

Millbrook Ensign with Free King Size 12 Tog Duvet & 2 Pillows.
King size pocketed sprung edge bed. Mattress contains 700 individual pocketed springs with luxury fillings and Damask cover. Supported by a fully sprung base.

▲ As shown above WAS £799.95

Simmons Miami with Free Double 12 Tog Duvet & 2 Pillows.
Backsore double bed. Contourflex spring system with 660 firm gauge individual pocketed springs, 5 layers of upholstery, and fully sprung base.

WAS £999.95

50% OFF PRICE
£159.95

50% OFF PRICE
£299.95

50% OFF PRICE
£329.95

50% OFF PRICE
£399.95

50% OFF PRICE
£499.95

OPEN BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
(Closed Easter Sunday)

Allied CARPETS beds at prices you won't lose sleep over

for your nearest Allied Bed stockist

call free on 0800 192 192

*Standard CDD - £76.95 for 18 months O&B, £150 - £1499.99 for 2 years, 1%, and £1600 and over to 3 years 0% interest free credit. Typical example: Purchase price £1500, Deposit £225, minimum 15%. Balance £1275, payable by 55 monthly payments of £22.42. Total paid £2225.00. APR 14.9% AF credit offer subject to status. Written quotations available from registered office: Allied Carpets, Croydon CR9 0JG, who are licensed Credit Brokers. These offers replace all other advertised offers. All offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other voucher, discount or promotional offer. Offers correct at time of going to press and are subject to change, please check before travelling. Delivery, headboards & accessories extra on all beds. Buy a bed and we'll give you a Free 12 tog duvet & pillow pack to fit the size of the bed purchased.

Finding private passion in a public place

Why is it that some gay men go in search of sexual encounters in lavatories? David Northmore finds out

IF SINGER George Michael had been caught with his pants down in a London public lavatory – rather than a gent's washroom in the nearly manicured Will Rogers Memorial Park in Los Angeles – then he would have received a few quiet words of advice from the local community bobby about his “inappropriate behaviour”. He would then have walked away feeling a little embarrassed, but with his reputation intact and no one else knowing anything of the incident.

Last autumn David O'Dowd, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, and the Association of Chief Police Officers issued instructions to chief constables that surveillance operations of cottages (public lavatories used for gay sex) and cruising areas, including the use of pretty policemen as *agents provocateurs*, was no longer acceptable. If there is a perceived problem with such venues, they proclaimed, then the police should get together with gay community organisations to resolve it discreetly.

The Los Angeles Police Department, unfortunately for George Michael, is far less enlightened. But as one American commentator lamented on a British television news bulletin on Thursday morning: “This guy has money, a house and hotel bedrooms at his disposal. So why on earth did he need to go and do this?”

Speaking to the *Pink Paper* earlier this year, a number of cottagers gave their verdict on anonymous, public sex.

“While the gay scene is so structured, cottaging is a far more spontaneous outlet for gay sex,” says Henry, a 26-year-old lawyer. “I’ve used cottages in hospitals, department stores, concert halls, libraries, colleges – even straight pubs – as well as the usual.”

But Robert Cole, 40, despises the time he has spent

'I even dream about cottaging. You don't know what or who you might find next. It's just so exciting'

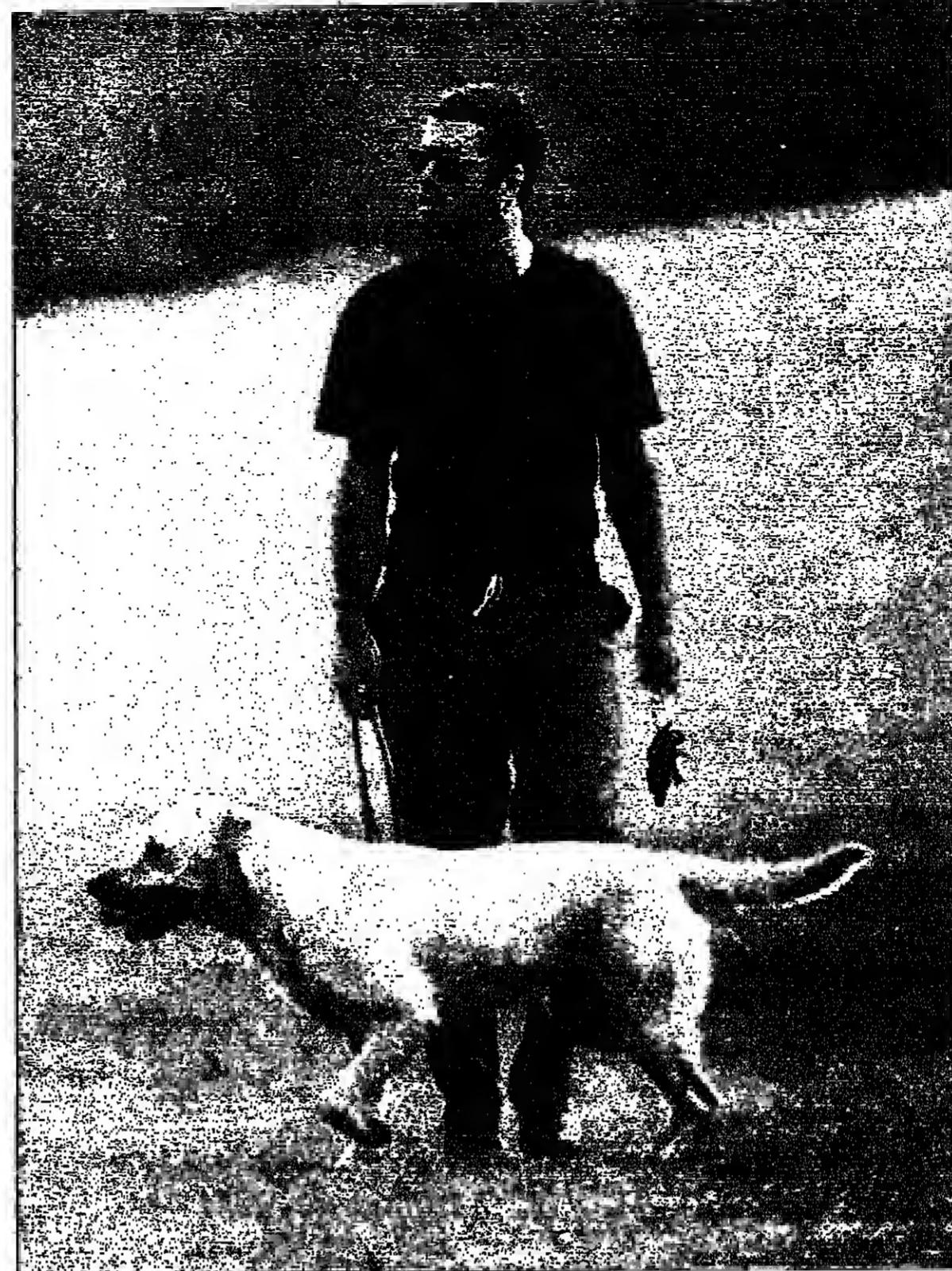
hanging around public lavatories. “I started cottaging at 12 because I was too young to go to pubs, but wanted to find a boyfriend. But it then becomes compulsive and a mechanism for avoiding sorting your life out.”

Henry isn't moved by that argument: “I even dream about cottaging. You don't know what or who you might find next. It's just so exciting. And it's the very stuff of life. don't you think?”

Recent research suggests that the stereotypical image of

than 200 men were asked to complete an anonymous questionnaire, and the results are eye-opening.

Twenty per cent of those questioned started cottaging between the ages of 10 and 14, and 32 per cent started between the ages of 15 and 19. And the survey's finding that just over 75 per cent of those questioned also regularly visit gay social venues and groups somewhat destroys the myth that cottagers are sad, closeted individuals who are unable to come to terms with their sexuality.



George Michael with his dog on Hampstead Heath. Had he been caught cottaging in Britain, he would have been cautioned, not prosecuted

Photograph: Alan Davidson

George Michael is not the first famous man to be arrested for an offence in a public lavatory. Earlier celebrated cases of men convicted of cottaging and cruising did in fact contribute to the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967. Two cases in particular – the 1931 conviction of Bobbie Shaw, eldest son of Tory MP Nancy Astor, and Sir John Gielgud, who was arrested in a Chelsea public lavatory in October 1953 – had this effect.

“Lord Astor owned the *Times* and the *Observer* and was able to ensure that Bobbie Astor's case never made it into the press,” says historian Patrick Higgin, author of the *Heterosexual Dictatorship*. “This made him realise just how unjust the law was and when the debate heated up over the decriminalisation of homosexuality, the *Observer* became one of the main intellectual forces behind that debate. And Lord Astor was the main financial backer of the Homosexual Law Reform Association.”

Although Sir John Gielgud's career survived without so much as a blemish, what are the chances of George Michael's surviving likewise? “People will continue to judge Michael on his artistic skills, and you would have to be very small-minded to do otherwise,” says pop writer Ian Watson of *Melody Maker*. “What he does with his private life is his business – he is an intensely private person, and I can't imagine that his standing as a singer will suffer in the slightest as a result of this incident.”

TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



SENSATIONAL SEAFOOD

A must for foodies: part one of the ultimate guide, by Sophie Grigson and William Black

Plus

- Anthony Bevins on New Labour's first year
- Your chance to win a state-of-the-art Olympus digital camera worth £1,300

How robbers took fashion off the peg

FASHION has always been a rapacious business. Labels are counterfeited; designers plagiarise each other's ideas; high street stores plunder the catwalk shows for next season's styles. Now this trend has been taken to its logical conclusion, with the literal theft of entire collections.

In the past week, three London-based designers have fallen victim. On Monday, Effi Zamara, whose clients include socialites Tamara Beckwith and Liz Brewer, arrived at the store she opened off New Bond Street just a fortnight ago to find that all of her stock – 250 suits, dresses and knitwear pieces – had been stolen.

The following day, it was the turn of Antonio Berardi, British Designer of the Year, whose autumn/winter designs were the highlight of London Fashion Week in February. The collection, worth up to £500,000, was snatched from outside his London studio, where it was being unloaded.

On Thursday, the swimwear designer Lisa Bruce arrived at her Knightsbridge shop to find that burglars had smashed through her glass door and taken her entire 1998 stock, worth £100,000. The shop had been open for just six weeks. It marked the relaunch of Ms Bruce's career, after she was forced to liquidate her company two years ago as a result of a legal battle with Marks & Spencer, whom she accused of copying her designs.

It will come as little consolation to Ms Bruce, as she contemplates her ranks of empty rails, to learn that she is in illustrious company. Some of the biggest names in the fashion world have suffered similar raids in recent years, including Christian Lacroix, Bruce Oldfield, Issey Miyake, Mulberry, Hermès and Liz Claiborne.

Scotland Yard detectives are investigating possible links between the three latest incidents. They say it is too early to say whether they were ordinary burglaries, or whether the designers were targeted by professional thieves. Ms Bruce said yesterday: “Someone is trying to put me out of business. I have to ask myself who my enemies are.”

Priyesh Shah, Mr Berardi's business partner, is convinced that the theft of their designs was not opportunistic, pointing out that it seems to have been carefully planned and executed. When the van drew up outside the studio, the driver was approached by two men pushing trolleys who asked him whether it was the Berardi delivery. He assented, and the men wheeled away the



Berardi: Collection snatched outside studio

Photograph: Chris Moore

180 pieces, leaving the driver nonplussed. “It may have been people just taking pot luck,” said Mr Shah. “But it seems far more likely that the collection was stolen by someone who wanted to copy Antonio's designs, or by a rival designer who wanted to sabotage his work. It does happen.”

Police believe that few of the samples taken by professional thieves end up on market stalls with the labels cut out – they are too instantly recognisable and tend to be in tiny sizes; made for skinny models. It is far more likely, they say, that the de-

signs are sent to counterfeiting factories in south-east Asia where they are copied with tiny variations and mass-produced.

Mr Shah believes that some garments are stolen to order on the whim of wealthy women. “It used to be for clients in the Middle East, now it's mainly Russia,” he said. “The irony is that organised fashion crime is commonplace in Italy, where Antonio comes from. He never expected anything like this to happen in London.”

Kathy Marks

17/FEATURES

The long road to peace: how blood enemies learned to talk

The search for a new beginning in

- Northern Ireland has been haunted by history. By David McKittrick in Belfast

ALL OF the participants in the Northern Ireland peace process went to the Stormont talks with the hope of finding a new Ireland, a new agreement for the new millennium. But behind every table stood a ghost; along with a commitment to peace they were haunted by the legacy of centuries of religious strife.

Take the Irish Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern. He left the talks for a time on Wednesday to bury his 87-year-old mother, Julia. Born in 1911, she often told the family about growing up in west Cork during the south's troubled passage towards independence. Bertie's father was a member of the 3rd Cork brigade of the IRA. In later life Mrs Ahern would tell tales of how the Black and Tans shot all the turkeys on the family farm and how, during the civil war, Free State forces would come to their home and "turn it upside down" because it was regarded as a republican household.

Bertie Ahern has always been a constitutional nationalist, vehemently denying that the IRA of today are the legitimate heirs of the republican forces of the 1920s. Nonetheless folk-memories and family recollections have played an important part in moulding even his generation of southern politicians.

This week he found himself negotiating with northerners whose lives have been more deeply and more recently touched by violence. The purpose of the enterprise was to find a new political dispensation to supersede the imperfect arrangements of the 1920s.

There has never been such a wide-ranging negotiation involving so many points of the political compass, and rarely has such a sense of a historic new beginning been generated.

Mr Ahern found himself coming to grips politically with, for example, Jeffrey Donaldson, one of the Ulster Unionist party's chief negotiators. Mr Donaldson still remembers learning in 1970, when he was seven, that a cousin had been killed by the IRA. An RUC constable, he was one of the first policemen killed in the Troubles.

Also in the talks was Gerry Adams, who is used to accusations that he has been a supporter of violence. But his family too has suffered: a nephew was savagely killed by extreme Protestants in the mid-1970s, while his niece's husband died, also at the hands of loyalists, in January of this year. Others in the Sinn Fein delegation, perhaps even a majority of them, have been to jail.

Across the table from them were delegations associated with loyalist paramilitary groups. These also contained people who have lost loved ones, and who have taken life: four of the loyalists there yesterday have killed at least six people, and spent time behind bars as a consequence.

In one sense it was time well spent, for most of them emerged

from the Maze prison changed people, disenchanted with violence and hungry for politics. One of them killed two men and threatened my life, actions which, in the 1970s, were the stuff of paramilitary politics; today he has a deep and genuine longing to have done with war.

It is the sight of conversions such as these, in which hard men learn the hard way about the facts of civilised political life, that give most hope for the future.

How did we get to this point? The purely political parties, excluding Sinn Fein and the loyalists, had been talking together on and off since 1991, when Peter Brooke as Northern Ireland Secretary first brought them together. Those early efforts seemed to come to nothing, although it can now be seen that valuable groundwork was laid for later advances.

It was John Hume, leader of one of the few parties which has never been overtly or covertly involved with violence, who years ago set out the conceptual framework for the talks. He maintained that they should deal with three key sets of relationships: those between Unionists and nationalists in Northern Ireland; those between north and south; and the east-west relationship between Britain and the Island of Ireland. Its strength was that it was an agenda designed to cope with the facts of history and geography.

John Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew brought the parties together again in mid-1996, but they became bogged down in procedural trench warfare and made little headway.

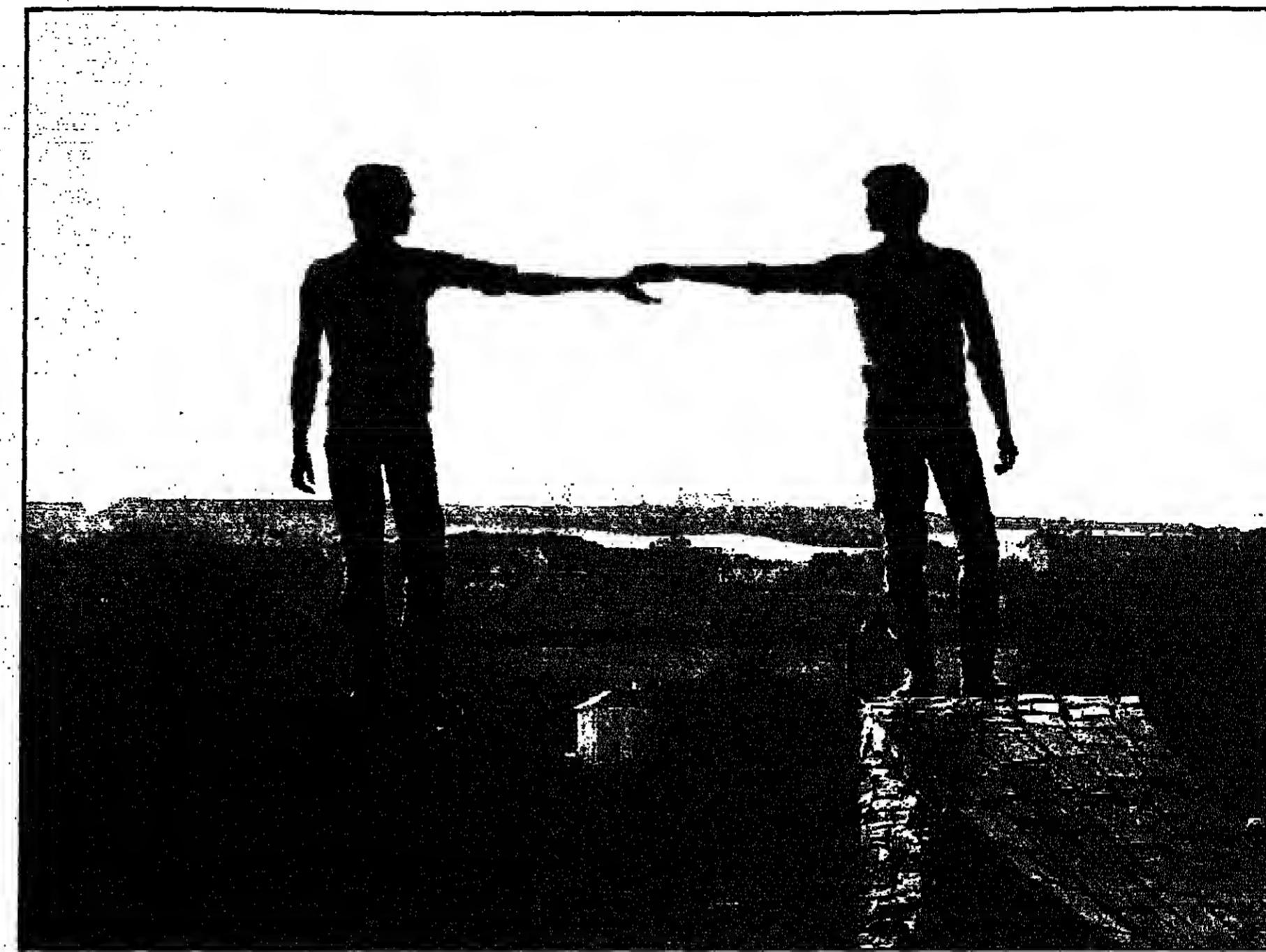
Then came Sinn Fein. After the July 1997 renewal of the IRA ceasefire, Tony Blair moved swiftly to bring the republicans into the talks, and to set a deadline for their completion. Rev Ian Paisley, who walked out as the republicans walked in, will now oppose the agreement, as he has opposed all past deals.

But crucially David Trimble stayed, though at no point have his party members negotiated with or even spoken to Sinn Fein members. The talks moved slowly, and not as the Government would have wished, but despite difficult moments they did not fall apart.

Until this week they tended to take the form of specifying rather than productive negotiation, with parties almost endlessly rehearsing their cherished beliefs rather than suggesting compromises. It is a fair bet that without the Government's insistence on a deadline, they would have continued to rehearse them for many more months.

A particularly bad period came at the turn of the year, with some important republican figures breaking away from the IRA and four of David Trimble's 10 Westminster MPs pressing him to quit the negotiations.

Deeper trouble followed when the assassination of loyalist leader Billy Wright by republicans brought a wave of



Symbol of hope: The peace statue in Craigavon Bridge, Londonderry

Photograph: Ian Torrance

loyalist violence which included the shooting of Gerry Adams's relative. At that point, attention focused on the Maze jail, where Mo Mowlam went to calm loyalist prisoners, rather than the republicans who walked in, will now oppose the agreement, as he has opposed all past deals.

But the talks resumed on schedule, though the progress of negotiations was hampered by disputes which led the temporary expulsions first of one of the loyalist parties and then of Sinn Fein. The two governments also produced a paper which was sharply rejected by both Sinn Fein and the IRA: a later draft was however more favourably received by republicans and nationalists, and the talks stayed on track. A particular outcry was caused when a loyalist attack on a bar in the previously peaceful Co Armagh town of Poyntzpass killed two men, Philip Allen and Damien Traitor. A Catholic and a Protestant, they were lifelong friends whose relationship transcended political dispute. The poignancy of their deaths generated momentary despair, yet it did not deflect the course of the talks.

By this time, the outline of an eventual settlement had become clear. A new devolved assembly would be set up in Belfast, while a north-south council would link the two parts of Ireland. A new concept, that of a British-Irish council, would connect devolved institutions in Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff. The new deal would include measures to protect civil and political rights, promote equality, and go on to consider the issues of policing, prisoners, the justice system and arms de-commissioning. In total, this amounted to a new political geography of these islands which would address Hume's three-cornered concept. But while the outline was clear enough, its vital details – as the events of this week showed – remained stubbornly unresolved. Arguments continued over arrangements for the assembly and its relationship with the north-south council. Unionists advocated a modest assembly and an even more modest north-south body; the assembly, in their view, should have no legislative powers and no cabinet to run it, while the north-south institution should be merely consultative.

Over the months, Sinn Fein delegates played their cards close to their chest, favouring a strong north-south body but refusing to admit publicly that an assembly should be part of any deal. This seemed illogical in that any cross-border institution would have to be anchored in a Belfast assembly,

bility, but it made sense politically in that it meant the republicans gave no hostages to fortune and made no concessions.

The SDLP and Irish government pursued agreement much more actively. They advocated a strong assembly with legislative as well as administrative powers, to be run by a new cabinet-style administration including both Unionists and nationalists. They argued for a powerful north-south body with

On the Unionist side, however, a number of the negotiators readily contemplated cooperation with constitutional nationalists such as the SDLP, but balked at the idea of ever working with Sinn Fein. A few months ago, Unionist negotiator Ken Maginnis, for example, described Sinn Fein as "unreconstructed terrorists," declaring: "I could never give cognisance to them, not as long as I live."

The useful thing was that all

Delegates complained that its stark Sixties design offered no intimate hidey-holes for political plotting. In the canteen, most politicians tended not to mix, while the bar was found unappealing. Comparing it to an RUC interrogation centre, Gerry Adams called it "Castlerock with coffee".

But not all the business was done at Stormont, with both Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern receiving a flow of visitors to London and Dublin. Adams went to Downing St several times, but a much more frequent visitor was David Trimble. The Prime Minister knew that no deal could be arrived at without the approval of the Unionist leader, and set out to win his trust. He appears to have succeeded in this – which was no mean feat, since Mr Trimble's precise thought processes all along remained a mystery even to some of his closest associates in his own party.

One of the few moments of levity came earlier this month when Mo Mowlam announced that so much progress had been made that the deadline had been advanced. This turned out to be an April fool's joke: in fact the story of this month has been one of hold-ups and apparent setbacks. The talks chairman, George Mitchell, was to produce his working paper on Friday of last week, but it was not until the early hours of Tuesday that it emerged from his office, the delay signifying much behind-the-scenes disagreement.

Once it arrived, however, the paper served its purpose of confirming the shape of yesterday's agreement while leaving key details open to last-minute renegotiation. By this stage, Sinn Fein had become the dog that didn't bark: republicans seemed to accept a clearly partitionist document with something approaching approval, with the noisy objections coming instead from the Trimble Unionists.

Yet even as the Unionists complained, it seemed they were coming to terms with the new political contours laid out in the Mitchell document. The demand was for changes to the document, not the scrapping of it, and it served as the basis of the final burst of negotiation.

In the final days Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern arrived, bringing with them the political muscle to dislodge the parties from their treasured positions. They have been days and nights of hard pounding, but they have ended in success. The spectre of all that unresolved history lay heavily on everyone, but in the end it proved not strong enough to overcome the spirit of peace and the desire to put an end to war.

15% OFF A NEW HOME THIS EASTER. (NO MORTGAGE NECESSARY.)

VISIT OUR STORE BETWEEN THURSDAY 9TH APRIL AND MONDAY 13TH APRIL AND GET 15% OFF ALL HOME FURNISHINGS.
ON THE 4TH FLOOR: BRING THE CHILDREN TOO, AS THERE'S 15% OFF ALL KIDSWEAR. BUT PLEASE, NO ESTATE AGENTS.

SELFRIDGES & CO

Excludes services, catering, West Bedding, bed linen, children's shoes and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts/offers. Store closed Easter Sunday.

No need to rubbish Rudolf

Rudolf Nureyev is the latest victim of the tiresome documentary genre that knocks famous people. This time they chose the wrong man, says Louise Levene

SPEAKING ill of the dead used to be taboo. Now it's a cottage industry. Approach a TV commissioning editor with the outline for a documentary celebrating the life and influence of St Francis of Assisi and you will be given short shrift. Return two weeks later with a proposal establishing that St Francis was an infamous racketeer whose hobbies included bodge-building and sheep-shagging and you are on to a winner.

Posthumous shafting of the glorious dead is a short-cut to notoriety, but it is an ugly trade. Of course, it is sometimes helpful to look at established reputations from a different perspective, but this justification weakens when you reflect that it only works one way. Suggest that Emperor Bokassa was a genial host with an impish sense of humour and see how far you get. Viz, the public outcry at the recent Oswald Mosley drama series, which had the brass neck to suggest that a man who could lead an entire political movement could possibly possess an ounce of charm. We insist that the bad stay bad. But this still leaves plenty of room to put the boot into anyone, from Mother Teresa to Enid Blyton (both victims of Channel 4 revisionism). The *fin de siècle* mood seems to force us to look back in anger at the great and the good.

Rudolf Nureyev was undeniably great and he was also very, very good. Ross MacGibbon's ungracious little film would like to suggest otherwise. MacGibbon knows his stuff. He was a dancer with the Royal Ballet and his partner, Julie Kavanagh, has written a major biography of Frederick Ashton and has been approached to write another of Nureyev. Which makes *Nureyev Unzipped* even more depressing. With the collusion of a number of people who are old enough to know better, MacGibbon paints a picture of a slightly second-rate dancer who covered up his inadequacies with a charismatic stage presence, and who (shock horror) was not the princely heterosexual he portrayed on stage.

Nureyev's talent hit the West for six when he defected in 1961. Young, exotically handsome and gorgeous in lights, he was bedsheet-wall material from the word go. But his celebrity — like that of Mick Jagger and George Best — was always firmly underpinned by his gifts. The founder of

the Royal Ballet Ninette de Valois (no doubt due to star in a forthcoming documentary depicting her as a lousy talent-spotter who couldn't run a whelk stall) knew instantly that she had to have him for her company and for Fonteyn. When the couple first danced at Covent Garden in the romantic melodrama *Giselle*, Nureyev's account of the heartless, randy young aristocrat transformed by remorse astonished the audience and drew an equally remarkable performance from Fonteyn. There were 23 curtain calls.

Nureyev's arrival was a hit of a facer for de Valois's hard-working homeboys. But his pantherish dancing and his ardent expressiveness set new standards for men in ballet. He continued to dance almost until his death in 1993. He last danced in Britain in 1991 in a mildly embarrassing programme that existed merely to provide a showcase for his own fascinating performance in Fleming Flindt's *The Lesson*, in which he played a dancing master who drives his pupils to death.

Decline? MacGibbon should enjoy such a decline. Besides, he didn't just dance. His directorship of the Paris Opera Ballet raised the company to the international top three and nurtured an entire generation of sensational dancers and powerful actors such as Laurent Hilaire, Charles Jude and Sylvie Guillem. His productions were fabulous. The film doesn't mention any of that.

Given Nureyev's reputation, surely no one could be found to suggest that he wasn't a great technician and an inspiration to other dancers? Many colleagues and friends are conspicuous by their absence — no Vladimir Vasilev, no Lynn Seymour, no Patricia Ruane no Guillem. But step forward Sir Anthony Dowell, artistic director of the Royal Ballet (a god-like stylist who went on to steer Covent Garden to millennial glory?) Or a jumped-up porteur with the administrative flair of a lobotomised weasel? It depends who's in the editing suite.

Sir Anthony is one of the few real stars to appear in *Nureyev Unzipped*. Eva Evdokimova and Wayne Eagling (hardly household names) pop up briefly to remark that Rudolf went on dancing far too long — which is a bit pots-and-kettles coming from those two, quite frankly. Sir Anthony Dowell could do anything he could do and

apparently gave the film crew a long interview, in which he must surely have expressed the greatest admiration for Nureyev. They cut out that bit. Instead we get him kvetching regretfully about how he was embarrassing to watch in later years.

Reading between the edits it is very probable that Sir Anthony has been stretched up and that his mild reservations have been exaggerated by being interspersed with the voiceover's carpings. By the late Sixties, his dancing was losing its Leningrad bloom. Dancers like Anthony Dowell could do anything he could do and

with far greater finesse." Him and my aunt Fanny, says John Percival, ballet critic, friend and early biographer of Nureyev. Percival is in no doubt where the greater talent lay and is incensed by MacGibbon's film. "It's all very well for these pip-squeaks who weren't very good dancers themselves to come along and denigrate people who were much better. But we know that the Royal Ballet, at that time, had some very fine dancers, but Nureyev always looked the best." Derek Deane (who danced with the Royal Ballet in the Seventies and who now heads the English National Ballet) is

happy to set the record straight on the "weak technique" score: "He certainly had wonderful battements, wonderful pirouettes. He had great strength of technique that went along with his animal magnetism."

The film's biggest trick is to present wild assertions as fact and then attempt to insinuate the voice of reason. Nureyev, we are told, was "often described as the greatest male dancer in the history of classical ballet ... nobody could do it like Rudolf. He was able to leap higher and turn faster than any other dancer before or since." No he wasn't. Nobody with any

Nureyev in action. His technique cannot be measured by how high he could jump.

Photograph: Hulton Getty

sense ever said such things and he would have been the first to deny them. Juxtaposing this nonsense with rueful accounts of his dancing in middle age enables them to paint a sorry picture not of a has-been, but of a never-was.

Those of us who saw him in his prime are in no doubt about Nureyev, but you didn't have to be there. We may have to take the greatness of Vasilev and Nijinsky on trust, but Nureyev's reputation is preserved on film. Lots of it. Which makes it strange that a documentary arguing about his place in some stupid technical league table should make so little use of the available footage. Apart from repeated shots of him mooning tragically about in an early film of *Giselle* and a tiny snatch from *The Corsair*, shot on the Soviet equivalent of Super-8, we see little evidence of his technique (or lack of it).

MacGibbon's film makes much of Nureyev's supposed technical inferiority to his exact contemporaries Vladimir Vasilev and Yuri Soloviev. Rather than celebrating the fact that Russia was able to produce three superlative male dancers in one generation, they remind us that the great Soloviev could jump higher. So what? Dick Fosbury could jump higher. By implying that a dancer's technique can be measured by their elevation of the speed with which they pirouette Nureyev is rendered an easy target. Nureyev was a rare and special dancer because he combined good technique with amazing projection. He brought fairy tales to life. Guillem was once asked where she had learned to dance *Giselle*. She replied: "I just danced it with Rudolf and looked in his eyes."

I don't doubt that MacGibbon is a sincere Nureyev fan, but his decision to angle his film in this tiresome way will chip away at the dancer's greatness. People who know nothing about Nureyev will come away with the impression that he was Not As Good As Everybody Says He Was. "Long after they have forgotten the others, they will remember Rudolf Nureyev," intones the voiceover in elegiac mood. No doubt. But if mealy-mouthed documentaries like this have their way it won't be such a beautiful memory.

Nureyev Unzipped will be shown on Channel 4 at 8pm on 13 April



THE TEMPEST
by William Shakespeare
'Unmissable' Sunday Times

David Calder's Prospero confirms him as one of the great Shakespeareans standing

Adrian Noble's dream-like production is fresh, lucid and authoritative Independent on Sunday

mysterious and tantalising

Also playing in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
by William Shakespeare
'Gregory Doran's spectacular production' Evening Standard
'Philip Yoss is a superb Shylock' Sunday Telegraph

TWELFTH NIGHT
by William Shakespeare
'A seriously enchanting production... Helen Schlesinger... amongst the best Violas I have seen' Sunday Times

MEASURE FOR MEASURE
by William Shakespeare
RSC Associate Michael Boyd directs Shakespeare's controversial play about sex and power
Previews from 23 April

THE PRODUCTION IS SPONSORED BY AIRTEL

BOX OFFICE 01789 295623 or 0541 541051 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

THE WEEK IN RADIO ROBERT HANKS

WAR, SAID John Keegan in the opening volley of this year's Reith Lectures, is the scourge of our century; for the first time in history, it has replaced famine and pestilence as a source of danger to the common man. You could also say that change is the real scourge of our century, and war is one of its agents — or sometimes one of its results, as incomprehension and frustration result in violence.

That's not to say that people hate all change; but we find it hard to handle change that has no evident reason. This century has been rich in deliberately disorientating change — like the supermarket that shifts the dairy produce every six months, putting the customer in unexpected aisles in the hope of encouraging new commerce.

Which brings us to Radio 4. The new schedule hasn't simply been an affair of displaced cereals and hard-to-locate soaps: much of the old stock was stale and you would be hard put to find a rationale for it. But the effect on the consumer has been similar to a supermarket switch-around: mild annoyance at not being able to find things in their usual place, and familiar brands suddenly disappearing off the shelves altogether.

That analogy probably won't go much further — for one thing, the supermarket is for most of us a once-a-week expedition; Radio 4 is a constant home companion. Then again, these days you can

order supermarket shopping from home, either over the Internet or through a home delivery service, something I know a lot about because I heard it discussed on the new, extra-long *You and Yours* on Tuesday afternoon. And then I heard it discussed again about four hours later on the new magazine *Shop Talk*.

Now, I don't want to build an entire critique of the new schedule on one stray example of repetition. Still, it does point to something significant about the new schedule: the

Radio 4's 'The Afternoon Shift' may be dead but its progeny live on

sudden proliferation of chatty, feature magazines — *The Learning Curve*, *Case Notes*, *Thinking Allowed*, *Four Corners*, *The Material World* — with, so it seems, only vaguely demarcated briefs. *The Afternoon Shift* may be dead but its progeny live on. And in all this jolly hobbles, thought-out ideas are squeezed while consumerist trivia is stretched.

To be fair, there is no evidence, so far, of any increase in the stupidity quotient. *Front Row* is more alert and focused

than *Kaleidoscope* (though it marks a worrying shift away from criticism and towards the preview puff). I can't see the reason for killing off *Science Now*, but the programmes that replace it — *Frontiers* and *Connect* — don't seem like a step down, and both are a step up from the chirpy "Hey, kids!" attack of Radio 4's other science slot, *Big Bang*.

Of course, this week we've heard Radio 4 on its best behaviour. For example, in his new issues forum, *Thinking Allowed*, Laurie Taylor presented an admirably incisive conversation about penal policy: but as he pointed out himself, he was an academic criminologist for 20 years, and if he can't do penal policy there's little hope for him.

There are worrying aspects to the new schedule, like the proliferation of shorter, snappier programmes designed to suit modern attention spans, and a number of individually duff programmes: Monday's "social documentary" *The Legacy of Wealth*, apparently commissioned by the League of the Extremely Rich, and Wednesday's "comedy" panel programme *I'm Glad You Asked Me That* (the question in this case is either "What on earth is this programme supposed to be about?" or "Who told Gordon Kennedy he's funny?").

But you'd have to be a very sclerotic personality to be pining for the old schedules; really, it works far better than anyone could have expected.

THE INDEPENDENT

VIN A SONY PLAYSTATION AND YOUR CHOICE OF PLATINUM GAME



The Sony PlayStation includes two hand controllers, a memory card and RF cable.

We have three Sony PlayStation's to win, and your choice of one of the Platinum range. To enter this competition, call the number below, answer the following questions on line, and leave your name and address. Good luck!

Q: Which country does a bandicoot come from?

Call 0934 420 0000

PlayStation™

PlayStation is a registered trademark of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.

THE INDEPENDENT

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT; EDITOR IN CHIEF: ANDREW MARR
DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2455 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.I-INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Ireland's peace is worth the candle

We should all share in the sense of joyful bewilderment at the news from Belfast. Can it really be true that they've persuaded Gerry Adams that there is more to a solution than "Brits Out"? Can they really have made David Trimble, the militant Unionist hero of Drumree, sign up to cross-border, all-Ireland bodies? Can they really have turned what seemed like the ultimate zero sum conflict into a positive sum game?

It has been a long night's journey into day. The origins of today's settlement go back to the Downing Street Agreement of December 1993 and, indeed, the derided "talks about talks" initiated by the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Brooke, almost a decade ago. The moral, political and physical commitment of all those who have been involved in the process has been impressive. It is right to pay more than a routine tribute to those whose energy and vision have helped to see the process through.

British statesmen have not always prospered when they intervened in Ireland; neither have they always served Ireland well. Stretching back centuries the political career of many a politician has founded on the "Irish question". But in John Major and Tony Blair these islands found two prime ministers who understood the scale of the task and the political risks but who still felt that peace was worth the candle.

Even strong, patient and dogged leadership, though, was not enough. The negotiating skills and bravery of Mo Mowlam (not least when she visited the Maze prison) were also essential. We should also be thankful for the support provided by President Clinton and his "leading" in the trusted George Mitchell as chairman of the talks. Senator Mitchell in turn could not have succeeded without a change in mood amongst Northern Irish politicians. He in turn could not have succeeded without a change in mood amongst Northern Irish politicians.

The casual visitor to Northern Ireland is often told by people there that what they want is for their political leaders to simply sit down together, talk, and try to come to some agreement. Now almost all of Northern Ireland's political leaders have fulfilled the wish of those they represent. One in particular has been tireless. John Hume's quest for peace has spanned the period of the present troubles. We have become used to his belief that it is possible to bring the divided people of the island brought together. He wrote in this newspaper (before the current talks):

"What is generally referred to as nationalist Ireland has made it clear that it is the people of Ireland who are divided, not the territory. A divided people can only be brought together by agreement. Any coercion cannot hope to succeed. Not only does the peace process pose no threat to Unionism, it is the best possible way for the Unionist people to secure their future. Relying on the protection of their identity by a British government they do not trust seems to me a less successful recipe than accepting the challenge of trusting themselves to come to an agreement with the people with whom they share a piece of earth."

The Northern Ireland settlement is not the conception or the property of one man, but one could be forgiven for seeing in it the Hume model of peace. But it may carry with it one of the weaknesses in another part of Mr Hume's approach – the faith in the prospect of a "total and complete cessation of violence".

Let us be clear. Now that the "peace process" is indeed a "peace settlement" it is not naive to be optimistic about its prospects. But nor, sadly, should we be absolutist – last night's events will not automatically mean a permanent and complete cessation of all violence. It is close to a mat-

Britannia in soundbites

AS I was wandering around the powerhouse:uk exhibition, the Department of Trade and Industry's export showcase (previewed in "Britain's export showcase is hot air", 27 March), I could not help but notice that the tourists all seemed to be on the other side of Horse Guards Arch photographing soldiers on horseback.

I applaud Nigel Coates' refreshingly innovative building, set like a jewel on Horse Guards Parade. But it is let down badly by the childish pomposity of the displays, which bide amongst them some first-class products and designs, and by our national inability to treat customers or visitors properly.

This latest manifestation of Cool Britannia was killed by the person who insisted that powerhouse:uk be surrounded by cheap galvanised fencing, Portakabins and parked contractors' vehicles. Such ignorance is so often allowed to spoil our best efforts.

An even greater worry is that we are in danger of polarising the national debate between Cool Britannia and what could be called traditional Britain. If this happens there will no longer be any talk of quality, and it is quality at which we excel. Quality in the performing arts, music, fashion, industrial design, engineering, architecture and also traditional ceremonial is where we lead the world.

Sadly, where we trail many other countries is in engendering a culture which admits all this, and allows it to be celebrated equally. To have all that we have, and to throw part of it away for the sake of a fleeting pomposity is to sell our souls.

I care passionately about Britannia, both cool and otherwise. I do not particularly care what we do, but whatever it is, let us do it well. And let us not edit our national heritage for the sake of a soundbite. Because when it is gone, it is gone forever and whatever is left is all that is left, and it had better be worth having.

DOMINIC REID
*Paganmaster
The Lord Mayor's Show.
Hereford*

The right to die

HUGH THOMSON (letter, 9 April) asserts that in the Netherlands three people per day whose lives are ended are "killed without consent". He takes the figure from the Remmelink Report of 1990. But half those people had already asked for euthanasia if their suffering became unbearable, most had only a few hours or days to live and the decision was discussed with other doctors, nurses and relatives. The figure remained the same when the study was repeated in 1995. There has been no "slippery slope".

How many such deaths does he suppose will occur in Britain? We have no means of knowing, since here there has never been a comprehensive study of death and dying comparable with the Remmelink Report. The incidence of distressing deaths is likely to be similar in such closely neighbouring countries. Smaller studies in Britain have revealed that doctors help the dying to have a more merciful death here too, but they have to do it furiously. This is where the possibility of abuse arises, not in the openly shared decision-making now legally practised in the Netherlands.

JEAN DAVIES
*President, European Division
World Federation of Right to Die Societies
Oxford*

DR PHIL HAMMOND fails to explain (7 April) exactly why he thinks only people with incurable and/or progressive conditions are to be taken at their word when they say they want to die.

No doctor, surely, could kill an able-bodied patient he felt had a life worth living, simply because that person expressed a wish to die – any more than any of us would give a person threatening to jump from a tower block a hefty push, because the only relevant consideration was that they had said repeatedly that they wanted to die. The doctor has to agree with the patient's hopelessness about their life before he can terminate that life.

Dr Hammond stresses that he is



A 'jewel' on Horse Guards Parade: the Powerhouse UK exhibition in London

Photograph: Chris Sharp

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

talking only of "voluntary" euthanasia; the truth is that he would accept only some "volunteers". Euthanasia is yet another way in which a common prejudice is put into practice – the distorted view that says sick people are right to want to die and are "better off dead".

ALISON DAVIS
Blandford Forum, Dorset

End of the Wrens

YOUR coverage of the "officer and the Wren" case, and your earlier reporting of the appointment of the first two female officers in the Royal Navy to command ships has contained a consistent flaw. The "Wrens" (Women's Royal Naval Service) no longer exist. They were abolished in 1992.

The use of the term "Wren" is il-

logical: the whole point of abolishing the WRNS as a separate service was so that women could do the same jobs as men in the Navy.

The most junior female ratings are still known as "Wrens" for historic reasons. But female officers in the Royal Navy are not. They wear the same gold sleeve lace as their male counterparts, rather than the old Wren blue stripes. And if Karen Pearce were still a Wren, she would be a First Officer. Not a Lieutenant Commander.

CHRIS BELLAMY
London W3

I WAS interested to read the poem "written by Lt Col Popple" in your account of the sex scandal court martial ("Colonel is cleared in Wren case", 10 April). In fact, it is identical to Robert Herrick's "Upon Julia's Clothes", except for the

name-change to "Karen" and leaving out the difficult words, thus creating the nonsensical line, "Then methinks how sweetly the sheet of her clothes" out of "Then; then; methinks how sweetly flows / The liquid unfashion of clothes".

Fortunately, plagiarism is not, I think, a court martial offence.

RON SIMPSON
Pontefract, West Yorkshire

Life after death

PAUL HANDLEY'S "Arguments for Easter" (7 April) tells us that "the weight of the evidence... indicates that Jesus the Nazarene lived in Palestine between c4 BCE and 33 BCE".

If so, he died some 29 years before he was born. A miracle indeed!

ERIC THOMPSON
London NW2

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"I know that women find it hard to hold their tongues." — The Rev Ian Paisley, silencing a female reporter who dared to interrupt him in mid-flow during a press conference.

"Ian Paisley – he's been thrown out of more places than Alex Higgins." — David Ervine, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party.

"She would say that, wouldn't she?" — Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein president, on Mo Mowlam's positive assessment of the chances for success of the peace talks.

"David [Trimble] was close to Blair all right, but it's like taking paracetamol. One a day is okay, but this is being asked to swallow 40 at a go." — A senior unionist, speaking about the draft settlement document.

"I sensed a little aloofness. But as soon as he found out that my brother was Prime Minister he immediately treated me as an equal, a truly aristocratic gnome." — Terry Major-Ball, describing an encounter with a fellow enthusiast at a garden gnome convention in New Zealand.

"I will be sending every member of the England football squad an inscribed book of inspirational thoughts, which will be tailored, a mere three-inches-square, to slip under their shin-pads." — Uri Geller, spoon-bender.

"To unbug the millennium, back to the quill pen, say I. Cheap to replace and far fewer clever human input errors." — David Williams, of Evesham, in a letter to *The Independent*.

LETTER from THE EDITOR

In Rosie's absence on a well-earned holiday in Normandy, I've had the pleasure of occupying the editor's chair these past few days. Pleasure is the wrong word: it has been a delight, not least because this has been one of those occasions when you feel privileged to have been a journalist, to have been a witness to history being made, to have brought momentous events into people's homes.

I refer, of course to Ulster – not to the "Colonel and the Wren" case, which judging from some of our rivals' acres of coverage on Friday morning, was more significant than just the nail-biting negotiations in Stormont.

On Thursday, with the deadline for the talks only hours away, I decided to devote most of the front page and pages two and three to Ulster. I could have gone in another direction and pumped up other stories. In which case, what would they be? George Michael? The Wren? Interesting and certainly entertaining, but not for the front – not for *The Independent*. Down the years of reporting the Troubles in David McKitterick we have been blessed with the finest commentator. Our Ulster coverage has always been second to none.

Our rivals stood back. While we ear-marked pages one, two and three, come what may, they appeared less certain. Their solution, reflected in their early editions, was to give over mass-

es of space to the Wren and to other light stories, which presumably, had there been a deal in Ulster, would have drastically diminished as the night went on.

But I felt that even without a deal, Ulster was still the only real story in town and would dominate Good Friday.

"Without a deal" – those were the words that haunted me on Thursday night. We had until 2am, when we finally closed the paper, to get the message right. But what could we say that would survive the morning? What if, God forbid, there was a deal at 2.05am? Did we want an upbeat or downbeat picture on the front page? Imagine if the talks collapsed suddenly at 4am and our newspaper came thudding through letter boxes a few hours later bearing an optimistic headline and a smiling Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern? It did not bear thinking about.

I confess, we sat on the fence. After rejecting an excellent picture of Blair, looking haggard and sleep-deprived, on the basis that his appearance would instantly change if a deal was struck and morning television viewers might see a beaming Prime Minister on their screens in sharp contrast to our instantly dated, sombre portrait, I was all set to go with a picture of Belfast children raising their hands in "V for Victory" signs.

It was a good picture that signified the aspirations and innocence of future generations. But we could be horribly wrong. Would those same children still be feeling victorious on Good Friday morning if the talks had fallen apart in the small hours after we had put the paper to bed?

Then, on the Picture Editor's screen, I spotted a snap of Blair and Mo Mowlam together, inside Stormont. They were sitting in a negotiating room, the table littered with the debris of hours of discussion: papers, mineral water bottle, six tea-cups, milk jug, salt and pepper pots. It was an intimate shot that took us behind the news, inside Stormont. Fortunately they were neither smiling nor gloomy, just focused and serious.

That was the picture. Then, the headline: "Eyes of the world on Ulster" – not dramatic enough, I liked, "Up to the wire and beyond", but it could look stale if a deal was struck by the time the paper landed. "Ireland's hope for a new dawn" – strong, reflects both a sense of moment and a mood of expectation, and afforded some protection if the whole process broke down. That was the headline. That was the paper on the day Ulster had a peace settlement.

CHRIS BLACKHURST, Deputy Editor

Women behaving badly

MARJORIE WILLIAMS purports to reveal some ugly truths about feminism ("How Bill Clinton neutered the feminist movement", 4 April) but chooses the wrong target. Whatever may be the truth about President Clinton's sexual conduct, it is a question of compliance with his importance – something that it was in his accusers' power to withhold if they chose to.

If their accusations are true, the President – like many of his predecessors in office – took advantage of his power and position in a callous way, while the women concerned gave in to equally instinctive impulses in complying – both morally reprehensible and both easy to understand given our animal natures. If women are morally and intellectually equal to men, though in some respects physically weaker, they are equally responsible for whatever transgressions pass between them.

For a woman to use sexual attractiveness to get on in the world is no better nor worse than for a man to use his position to exact sexual favours. Women cannot have it all ways; and in so far as they attempt to do so, they are likely to be subject to the very kind of male attitudes which they complain about. The equivalent to manly chivalry is womankind.

JOHN A. DAVIS
Cambridge

Hoax on the hoaxers?

PRESUMABLY the Joseph Crabtree mentioned by Bryan Bennett of the Crabtree Foundation (letter, 10 April) is he of "Crabtree's Bludgeon", the fictitious character created 44 Christmases ago, as a joke on the literary fraternity? (I quote from A.B. Sainsbury's supplement to the obituary of Professor R.V. Jones, printed in the *Independent* on 24 December 1997):

"As an undergraduate in the mid-Fifties, I sat in R.V.'s most illuminating and informative Natural Philosophy lectures at the University of Aberdeen. Particularly enjoyable were his descriptions of practical jokes and hoaxes of which he was aware, and had in some instances perpetrated.

It would be a delightful postscript to R.V.'s practical joking career if Crabtree were real and was in fact R.V.'s hoax on his co-hoaxers; his "crimes at the Athenaeum". Perhaps such "proofs" as the Crabtree Foundation possess would enable a decision to be made between the two versions of the hoax?

J.RUSSELL
Fleet, Hampshire

King's fight for the poor

MARTIN LUTHER KING was not in Memphis in April 1968 to support "black sanitation workers" (report, 4 April); in fact, he was there as part of the Poor People's Campaign of 1968, publicising the plight of all low-paid workers, and other people in poverty.

He was killed at a time of great creativity in his life, a time when he was realising that the root of the problems facing America lay not in the denial of legal rights to black people, but in the growing division between rich and poor. He was also just beginning a campaign against the Vietnam war.

WYN DAVIES
Bury Port, Dyfed

A private affair

THERE is something tyrannical about the tone of John Lytle's article on George Michael ("Why it's been a bad week for homosexuals", 9 April) and its underlying assumption that he should have come out ages ago and in effect has a duty to the gay community to do so.

George Michael's sexuality is his own private affair and the business only of himself and those he chooses to sleep with (his alleged breaking of the law is another matter). Didn't the gay movement set out precisely to liberate people from prejudice and oppressive, moralising intrusion?

SUSANNAH PERRY
London E5

Did the third class passengers on the Titanic have a fair chance?



DAVID AARONOVITCH
WHEN THE EVIDENCE FITS THE PREJUDICE

It was, of course, the tenacity, skill and patience of John Major/Tony Blair/Mo Mowlam/Bill Clinton which brought about yesterday's Ulster settlement, and put an end to thirty years of terrorism/war/painless violence. History will judge this to have been the moment when diehard unionists/republicans gave up their obstinate insistence on a united Ireland/British Ulster, and allowed the guns to be put away.

One always has a choice. Of restaurants, spouses, garden furniture, newspapers and, above all, of histories. You can pick whichever suits you best, the one that sets off your eyes, the one that goes with the curtains, the one with the most complete sports coverage – or – in the case of history – the one that seems best to validate the views that you currently hold.

Take the Titanic. My inferiorized version of the 1912 disaster had it cast as a wonderfully rich and vivid illustration of the class struggle. In Walter Lord's *A Night to Remember*, Lady Cosmo Duff Gordon – whose party occupied an entire lifeboat (number 1) to themselves – turned to her secretary, Miss Francatelli as the Titanic finally went down, and said: "There is your beautiful night-dress gone." And there too went the three Skook children, the four young Paulsons and the eleven members of the Sage family. All in third class, and all beneath the notice of this latter-day Marie Antoinette. Worse, they were locked out of the lifeboats so that the rich might live while the poor died.

This is not a view of history that would suit, say, the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. For him, the class system was never so callous as that. It might confer privilege, but it also demanded responsibility to those who were poor or who laboured on your behalf.

So it must have been nice to have been able to run the headline in Thursday's edition, *Titanic victims were not locked below*. Taking the latest Oscar-winning film to task, the *Telegraph* revealed that papers

on display at a new exhibition at the Public Records Office proved that "the scene in which third-class passengers are locked below decks is a myth". A passenger called Pickard is documented as having said that those in steerage "were not prevented from getting up to the upper decks by anybody or by locked doors or by anything else."

Joy, then. But the figures are awkward. As the *Telegraph* admits, in first class over a third of the men, almost all of the women and all the children survived. In second class it was less than 10 per cent of the men, 84 per cent of the women and all the children. But in steerage 12 per cent of the men, 55 per cent of the women and less than one in three of the children survived. Interrogating the figures shows that – despite the strict "women and children first" policy – a greater proportion of first class men survived, than of third class children.

Strangely, the documents quoted by the *Telegraph* contain observations by another steerage passenger called Buckley, arguing that "the passengers in third class had as much chance as the first and second class passengers". But how can this circle be squared? How, if they had just as much chance, did so many more of them contrive to be drowned? Simple, says the *Telegraph*. "More of the first class passengers survived because their cabins were closer to the lifeboats [just as much chance?]" and many of the emigrants in third class died because their poor English meant they did not understand what was happening.

This Tiltian observation – with its suggestion that had the boat gone down in Swedish, then more would have been saved – seems somehow deficient. And other evidence states that there were many barriers between steerage and the rest of the ship, and that most of them stayed up. In addition some third-class passengers were denied initial access to the boats by sailors who forbade them to enter the first-class area. These included three Irish girls, and – curiously – Mr Buckley himself.

These facts, of course, do not really justify the American Hollywood myth of the deliberate lock-out, which is the version of history preferred both by vulgar old Marxists and vulgar new Metropitans. But they certainly don't do much for *nos blesse oblige*.

So, if the *Telegraph* chose to puncture the "myth" of the way that class decided who lived and who died on the Titanic, what might the liberal *Guardian* discover at the very same exhibition? *Titanic's owners tried to gag filmmakers*, that's what. Shipping companies apparently put pressure on cinema chains in a bid to "suppress material which might frighten away passengers". Just before the second world war, says the *Guardian*, the British Chamber of Commerce demanded that the Board of Trade stop Alfred Hitchcock making a film about the Titanic. Furthermore, the *Guardian* reminds us, the exhibition shows that the British Foreign Office secretly pleaded with US President William Taft to ensure that a senatorial enquiry into the sinking exonerated the British Board of Trade. The issue was one of censorship, cover-up and collusion in high places.

So, OED. The same exhibition based on the same historical disaster that happened 76 years ago this week, and two national papers with two entirely different stories, both of which act to reinforce the current opinions and prejudices of their readers. All of whom can wear "Validated By History" stamps on their foreheads.

Now is the time to praise the work of democratic politicians



ANDREW MARR

ON HOW THE PEACE IS WON

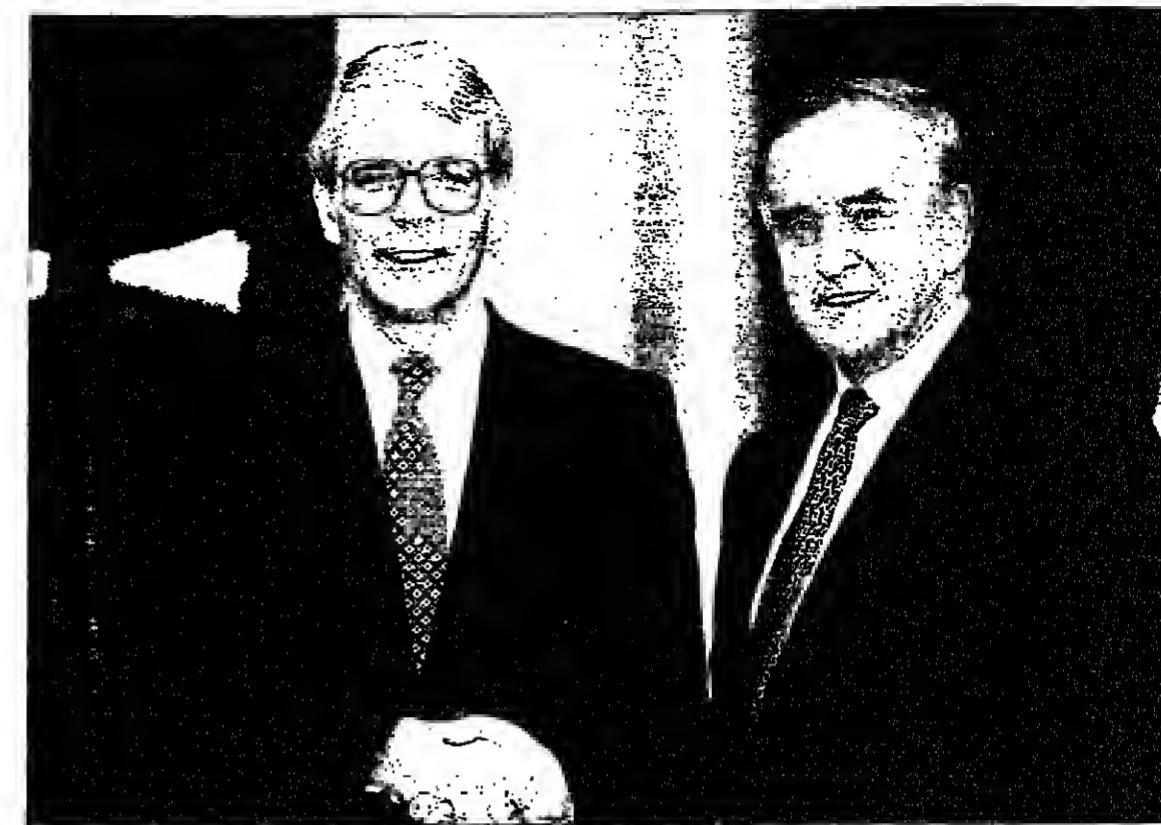
GOOD FRIDAY, indeed. Yesterday was special – a day which asked cynics to take another look and made pessimists seem suddenly boring. A day which gave a good answer to the old question: "Mummy, what are politicians for?" A day which conjured a generous vision out of small minds.

So before plunging back into the grey media river of its and ours and the reverses and disappointments to come, it is worth standing back and simply enjoying the event. All political systems need days like these. I heard the news with a shudder of excitement in a Highland Hotel. People were asking each other about the news and smiling. In churches around the country this weekend people will be celebrating and praying – "Let's hope". And in pubs, cafes and millions of kitchens therewill be a murmur of "Well, you never know", and "Himm. Could be."

This uncommon mood which steals out at some election results, or whether Mandelson is released, or at the first IRA ceasefire or a Camp David handshake, cannot be defined or measured. But it is the vital spirit of democracy: if there isn't some hope of making the world better through representative politics, then the system itself begins to rot away.

You could tell the politicians themselves felt some of this – felt, in Tony Blair's phrase "The hand of history". The fact that it was the pursed familiar faces of Ulster hardman who were expressing hope and openness made the breakthrough particularly poignant. To hear Sinn Fein's Mitchell McLaughlin herald "A beautiful day" or David Irvine of the PUP pinching himself and trifling, "I never thought in my life time I would see it", was superbly surreal but undeniably moving too.

The over-night political melodrama of this final phase of negotiation was evidently essential to the deal. Without the ticking clock set off by senator George Mitchell's deadline – yet another Northern Ireland time bomb, but one that could only be defused by about a thousand fingers working simultaneously – there wouldn't



Beginning of the road: John Major and Albert Reynolds issue the joint Declaration on Peace, 1993 Chris Grieve

have been the agreement. I suspect that in those final exhausted hours a few closed minds were prised open, or at least open enough.

It was a heavy, dark, tobacco and coffee-stained seam of mental shrugging, phase-rubbing and deal cutting which will be mined for posh memoirs and pub anecdotes for years ahead – the moment when Clinton received John Hume in the refreshment pen; the moment so-and-so burst into tears; the bad joke that broke the worst atmosphere ... But this drama

needed the fresh authority and energy of Tony Blair's victory to bring it alive again. It needed the big Westminster majority and the knowledge that the new British administration wasn't going away but would be in power for years to come. But without Major and his doggedness and in the mid-1990s, there would have been nothing for New Labour to pick up.

Like John Major, Tony Blair has been heavily involved in his first few days in office. His arrival at Hillsborough this week wasn't a PR stunt by a grand-

Cabinet and is certainly now the most important female politician in the country.

Berlie Ahern and David Andrews have done exceptionally well, keeping the faith: but they will inevitably be standing in the shadow of John Hume, a good man vindicated, and Gerry Adams, a less good man who is visibly changing. We may not like Adams but then we are not required to like any of these characters; and what we can say is that the Sinn Fein leader, fully aware of the historic fate of Republicans who com-

could never deal and a modern politician who can – and in a way, between the 17th Century and our own, Trimble has shown exceptional courage too in handling a divided party-boiling with would-be replacements. Some of this behaviour in the last few days made one despair but in the end he did the right thing, and as the likely leader of a future Northern Ireland assembly he will be tested and challenged constantly in the years ahead.

The referendum and the elections offer plenty of scope now for the wreckers. There will be splinterings and denunciations and no doubt killings to come as the cave dwellers come out for a final bloody dance of protest. But here is where the rest of the country, politicians, journalists and voters, can also play a part. We must not fall into the easy reaction of questioning the whole process every time a bomb explodes or an inoffensive drinker is murdered in a hack street bar.

It would be childish to expect a clean or uncomplicated move from low intensity war to genuine peace. Now, none of us can afford to be cynics and none of us can afford to be heroes. There will be trouble ahead. But there will be less trouble then there would have been before these past extraordinary days. As of this weekend, all of us in the UK are living in a slightly different country than the one we had grown used to. A better one? Well, obviously.

All of us in the UK are living in a slightly different country than the one we had grown used to

was, only the culmination of a much longer process, composed of ten thousand minute acts of moral courage on the part of a bewilderingly diverse number of people, many of them anonymous and some of them very unusual indeed.

One well known man who should be particularly remembered this morning is John Major who seized an IRA offer and began this initiative, to much ridicule at Westminster. He didn't have a big majority. He was leading a unionist party. In many years, his position could hardly have been weaker. Major and Paddy Mayhew would not, I think, have been able to bring things to this point had the Tories, by some magic, won the last election. By the end of that administration the pressure on it was showing and the Northern Ireland peace process

standing leader flying in to take the credit. These talks nearly failed and this was a final fling by a man who may have inherited them but who has become imbedded in the detail and almost obsessive about it.

The other mainstream politician who emerges with huge credit is of course Mo Mowlam. It was Blair's gamble that her startlingly direct and unconventional style would help rather than smash up the talks. She has put up with some poisonous attacks in the past few months and taken some heart-stopping risks, notably in meeting terrorist prisoners at the Maze. But she has proved herself a genuinely gritty, major-league politician whose plain speaking isn't quirky or merely affected but a different way of doing deadly serious politics. After this week she surely joins the top division in

Easter, Passover, Eid – suppose they were true



SARA MAITLAND
ON THE USES OF BELIEF

BANK HOLIDAY weekend again. Some traditions never die – for instance the weather is dire and the motorways are completely jammed. But one great Easter tradition has vanished: the Bishop of Durham no longer makes a provocative sermon challenging the meaning of Easter, and insisting that the whole original point of this holiday, the resurrection of Jesus, has been misunderstood. It is about more than "a conjuring trick with pigs' bones", the phrase that launched a thousand editorials. Like all traditions this annual event had a ritual pattern: the declaration was followed by a traditional dance of shock and outrage performed by media pundits, the Bishop's colleagues and anyone else who wanted to join in. After that we had a ritual discussion about the role of religion in a multi-cultural secular democracy. After that an opinion poll revealed that 73.7 per cent of the population believed in God, but only about two per cent did anything about it. Then we could all return to real business – the ap-

palling weather and the deficiencies of the M25. Perhaps it was a useful tradition. Without this annual event there is no religious news. But religion continues – this weekend it is not just Christians who have a key festival. Four of Britain's major religious events have important celebrations this week: it is Jewish Passover (the celebration of their freedom from Egypt) Moslem Eid (the Feast of Lights) and, of course, the great feast of the Easter Bunny worshippers (who are unquestionably winning the fight of faith).

WH Smith has ten cards to honour this cult for everyone with any Christian iconography.

Anthropologists would have no problems interpreting these festivals as fertility rituals linked to the renewal of spring time, the return of the sun, the annual crop pattern, and pervasive in all non-tropical cultures. But for the rest of us there is a question to be asked because we are privileging "faith". Most blatantly Britain privileges Christianity – and primarily a Lutheran-Erastian version of it called Angli-

canism. National holidays – and the word itself is just short hand for Holy Days – are organised around the Christian calendar. We allow bishops to influence legislation. We require our heads of state to manage their sexual activities around Christian moral codes. But more fundamentally we privilege religion over secularism, racism over

beliefs need all the help we can get; we are an endangered species. Scientific fundamentalists openly preach that their measure of truth is the only one; and that the absence of proof (as defined by them) must be treated as proof of absence. In the interests of the social equivalence of bio-diversity it makes good sense to support benign habitats

of us enjoy? Personally I would want to say that I believe in Christianity as I believe in the world revolving round the sun; that I believe in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, carpenter and God, exactly as I believe in World War II. But actually I don't, because when I encounter someone who for example denies the reality of the Holocaust I endeavour to correct them and tend to like them less for their convictions. Meanwhile I completely understand why non-believers disagree with me. I rarely try to persuade anyone, and by large prefer rationalists to my fellow believers. My faith is more along the lines that "it is true that I love my children". I see absolutely no reason why anyone should accord me social privileges because of that, and certainly they should not have to organise their long weekends around my children's birthdays.

The Bishop of Durham pressed the issue – what do we mean by belief in God? Is it True? Is it metaphorical? Is it a personal habit that some

and provide special attention. But this is a flimsy argument: taken world-wide, faith is not in the least endangered and virulent strains of it are alive and well and reeking social havoc, more like a virus than like the giant panda.

We are in a social mess on this issue. If as a culture (not as individuals) we do not believe in religion, we should not be privileging those who do: we should not be insisting

that children are inculcated with it at school, and we should arrange our national holidays around weather, convenience and the transport system. If we believe it is metaphorical, then we should treat it like any other cultural society, from the Arts Council to the village amateur dramatic club. If we believe it is literally true we should be reintroducing a criminal penalty for those who fail to attend church on a Sunday for their own long term good.

The point is that a belief system, or faith, which has no consequences in the real world is shabby at best, and dangerous at worst. This may be the biggest fault with the Easter Bunny cult – it flavours anything we feel like doing with a mixture of sentiment and smugness without challenging our minds or our morals. If on the other hand the pressure of Easter, of a narrative of resurrection, repentance and forgiveness weighs even slightly in the balance between peace and violence, say in Christian Northern Ireland this weekend, then we may have to recognise another sort of truth.

Dublin

from

£79

return inc. taxes

Manchester

from

£69

return inc. taxes

All we cut is the price.

Return fares from London Heathrow

For these and many more special European fares, contact your travel agent or call us (local rate) on

0845 6071637

More fares available from other airports in UK and Ireland

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

Fares quoted available on selected routes and flights. Subject to availability.
Ticket must include a security flight tax. Flight price includes UK and foreign travel taxes. Exchange rates may vary.
Calls are charged.

Please visit <http://www.britishmidland.com>

Japan Bank punishes 98 over scandal

By our financial staff

THE BANK of Japan yesterday disciplined 98 staff in an attempt to recover public trust and close the book on the worst financial scandal in its history.

The punishments were meted out following a two-month internal investigation sparked by the arrest of a senior BoJ official accused of giving out confidential information in exchange for lavish entertainment, mainly by private banks.

The official, Yasuyuki Yoshiwawa, the then head of the capital markets division, was fired after being indicted two weeks ago on charges of accepting bribes of about ¥4.3m from the Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ) and Sunwa Bank over four years from May 1993.

Yasuo Matsushita, governor of the BoJ, resigned last month to take responsibility for the scandal.

Among those punished yesterday were two executive directors and three advisers to the governor. The five will give up 20 per cent of their pay for one to five months.

The BoJ's new governor, Masaru Hayami, his deputy governors and four other executive directors also decided to give up 20 per cent of one month's salary "to show regret and determination to restore the bank's credibility", the BoJ added in a statement.

The investigation asked employees to volunteer information on contacts over the past five years, focusing on illegal acts as well as the frequency and manner of contacts.

The investigation did not find employees broke the law, but it revealed that some officials leaked confidential information with the approval of Mr Yoshiwawa.

None of the BoJ officials investigated

pressed financial firms to entertain them or forced private firms to pay for wine and the dining, it said. They also were not given special favours, such as discounts on golf course memberships.

But almost all received some entertainment, with some agreeing the entertainment was excessive.

"There is a need to establish a new style on how BoJ staff come in contact with financial firms and the markets, as Japan is about to go through a major revolution in its financial and asset markets," the bank said. "We would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our employees thoroughly about this."

A senior bank official told reporters that the internal investigation showed there had been no institutionalised leakage of sensitive information by central bank officials.

The bank began the internal investigation of about 600 management staff in February. Japanese media reports say staff used their own slang to describe entertaining by private firms. A "splash" involved a ¥20,000 dinner while a "plunge" could mean a ¥10,000 dinner.

The scandal has also led to a clean-up of ethics among private banks. Asahi Bank said yesterday it would cut the salaries of its chairman and president by 30 per cent for three months to take responsibility for the bank's involvement in the scandal.

Sanwa Bank, Sumitomo Bank and the Industrial Bank of Japan have already announced cuts in the salaries of their chairmen, presidents and other executives.

The Ministry of Finance has also been caught up in a similar scandal. Earlier this year, two officials were arrested on suspicion of receiving bribes from big banks in exchange for confidential information.



Tokyo yesterday: The Bank of Japan is thought to have sold \$5bn in an attempt to strengthen the yen

Markets give thumbs-down to Hashimoto fiscal package

By Michael Harrison

THE FINANCIAL markets yesterday gave the thumbs-down to Japan's economic stimulus package, forcing the country's central bank to intervene massively on the foreign exchanges to prop up the yen for a second day running.

Dealers said that the Bank of Japan had sold up to \$5bn to try to knock the dollar back. At one point the dollar was down by more than four yen at ¥127.4, but it rallied later in the day to close a shade below ¥129.

The Nikkei index of leading stocks also felt the strain, falling by 1.5 per cent at one point as doubts grew about whether the government's package of tax cuts would prove decisive enough. It rallied to close down 55.54 points, or 0.34 per cent, at 16,481.12.

It was the second day in succession that the BoJ had intervened to defend the yen following the announcement of the long-awaited ¥10 trillion (£45bn) package of measures to reflate the economy. On Thursday the BoJ is estimated to have intervened in the New York currency markets, selling up to \$2bn.

Spirits were lifted slightly by an indication from the Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto that he may ask the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to make the tax cut announced this week a permanent fixture. "I have said that I will ask the tax

panels of the LDP and the government to discuss the issue soon," he added.

But the mood of optimism was tempered by another downward assessment of the economy from Japan's Economic Planning Agency. In its monthly report the agency said: "Consumer and corporate sentiment, which worsened last year, are affecting all of the real economy. The economy is stagnating and conditions are becoming worse."

The report added that the economic stimulus package, likely to total more than ¥10 trillion, would have a significant impact. Employment conditions were having a considerable impact on spending habits and that was something to be considered when thinking of how to boost consumption.

C&W raises £400m in French sell-off

By Michael Harrison

CABLE & WIRELESS is to raise about £400m by selling its 20 per cent stake in the French mobile telephone operator Bouygues Telecom to Telecom Italia. The move could also presage a new alliance between C&W and the Italian telephone company.

The disposal of the stake in Bouygues Telecom is part of C&W's strategy of withdrawing from ventures where it has minority holdings or lacks management control. Last November it announced plans to raise £1bn in the next 12 months from asset sales, since when the market has speculated on where its holding in Bouygues Telecom might end up.

C&W said it was exploring opportunities with Telecom Italia for co-operation in their respective international networks. C&W is strong in the UK, US and Caribbean while Telecom Italia has a bigger presence in mainland Europe and Latin America.

Telecom Italia refuted suggestions that its planned link-up with C&W threatened its proposed alliance with AT&T of the US.

The Italian company reached a preliminary accord last year with AT&T and the European telecoms consortium Unisource to form a global strategic alliance. But AT&T's representative on the board of Telecom Italia resigned unexpectedly, after which Telecom Italia's chairman, Gian Maria Rossignoli, said it time to re-evaluate the accord.

A spokesman said however: "The alliance with C&W does not exclude the alliance with AT&T. The two things are separate. Our negotiations with AT&T will continue."

Indonesia begins reform

INDONESIA yesterday unveiled sweeping reforms designed to end the country's financial crisis. The package, put together after three weeks of talks with the International Monetary Fund, includes measures to modernise its bankruptcy and mergers laws, tackle its \$74bn of private foreign debt, privatise state enterprises and restructure its banking sector. The rupiah strengthened on news of the deal, rising from 8,000 to 7,750 against the dollar. Analysts reacted cautiously, saying they needed to be convinced that the Jakarta government was serious about implementing the reforms.

Surplus soars

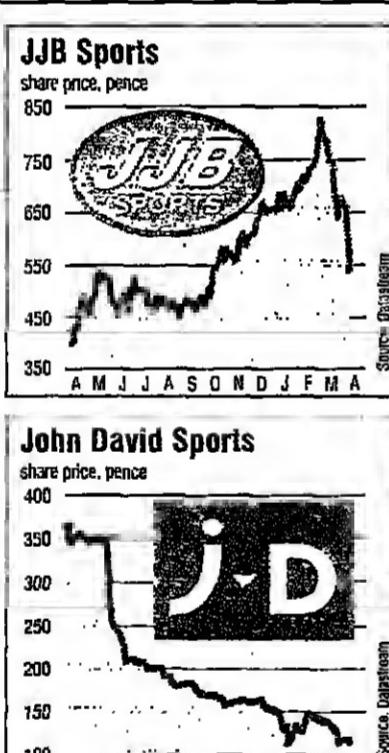
THE SURGING US budget could push the federal budget to a surplus of at least \$50bn this year, according to internal Federal Reserve estimates. Some Wall Street analysts believe it could reach as much as \$75bn. This will be the first time that the US government has spent less money than it raises in taxes for 30 years.

Dassault move

THE FRENCH government is expected to transfer its 46 per cent stake in the combat aircraft maker Dassault Aviation to the state-owned Aerospatiale, according to reports in Paris. The transfer is part of the government's plan to strengthen its domestic defence industry in preparation for the proposed link-up with British Aerospace and Daimler-Benz Aerospace of Germany. The transfer would let Aerospatiale negotiate on equal terms with BAe and DASA although BAe has made clear that it believes the continued state ownership is the biggest hurdle to a pan-European consolidation.

China air war

OVER-CAPACITY and increased competition from road and rail transport are forcing China's domestic airlines into a price war to fill seats. Many of China's 34 domestic airlines have slashed prices or offered discounts to passengers after a drop in air traffic since 1995, the state news agency Xinhua reported.



Angela Corrigan, ex-member of the all-girl pop group Bombshell, in Nike trainers. Analysts wonder if the sportswear market is about to bomb



Adios Adidas. The sportswear fad may be going out of fashion

By Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

CONCERNs are growing in the City about the performance of the sports retail sector as analysts question whether the branded sportswear boom has passed its peak. Their fears follow sharp falls in the share prices of some of the publicly quoted sports store chains such as JJB Sports and Blacks Leisure in recent weeks. The shares have been hit by concerns over weak trading, an over-supplied market and suggestions that fashion trends may be moving away from top brands such as Nike, Adidas and Reebok.

The sector has been looking shaky for a while and with the amount of new space being added, any slackening of demand is bound to affect profitability," one analyst said. Clive Vaughan of Verdict retail consultants agreed, saying: "This does look a bit like a bubble that is very close to bursting. There is nervousness out there at the moment and though we can see consumer demand growing, the amount of new space the retailers are adding can only end in tears."

There were suggestions late last week that some of the sports chains are

suffering double-digit declines in like-for-like sales. It is understood that trading was particularly weak in February but may have picked up in March.

It is now almost certain that Sports Division, the privately-owned sports retailer, will postpone its £350m stock market flotation which had been planned for the spring. A final decision will be made after JJB Sports reports its full year results on 22 April.

Investor confidence has been shaken by a series of negative announcements from the sector in the last six weeks. Nike issued a profits warning in March after problems in the US and the Far East. Also last month the former merchandising director of Manchester United said the boom in replica football shirts may be over. Newcastle United added to the woes when some of its directors were alleged to have made comments about replica shirts being over-priced.

A bigger concern is the possibility of a shift in fashion tastes. The popularity of training shoes has been affected by the rise of the "brown shoe" market which includes brands like Timberland, Rockport and Caterpillar. Even the previously un-trendy Clarks shoes have been popularised by rock bands such as Oasis and The Verve.

The appeal of these brands is also being undermined by supermarket groups selling sports clothing and

trainers at cut prices after securing supplies on the "grey market". Tesco has cut the price of Levi's jeans and Nike trainers in recent months. It is selling Tommy Hilfiger clothing at reduced prices, including a T-shirt for £15 which is said to be £25 in Selfridges.

Tesco says it is not planning to enter the sports market but is securing the supplies as part of its campaign against selective distribution. Brands like Levi's and Nike have refused to supply supermarkets saying their store environments and lack of specialist staff makes them unsuitable outlets.

However, it would be premature to write the sports brands off completely. They are backed by huge advertising campaigns and replica shirts are unlikely to fall out of favour dramatically given the rising popularity of football and the continued backing of Sky TV.

And then there is France '98 in June. As Mr Vaughan of Verdict says: "There has been a bit of slippage in the market but we still have the World Cup to come and marketing for that has not even started yet."

For the sports retailers, a strong

World Cup challenge by England, or even a sustained run by Scotland, would be seen as the hand of God. The appeal of these brands is also being undermined by supermarket groups selling sports clothing and

Administrators shut 50 Fosters shops

By Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

ADMINISTRATORS to Fosters Trading, the menswear retailer which collapsed last month, are to close 50 of the group's stores with the loss of up to 400 jobs. The move is part of a rationalisation programme designed to stabilise the company before it can be offered for sale.

Further closures of the chain's 175 outlets cannot be ruled out as the administrators, BDO Stoy Hayward, continue with their three-month review. Fosters currently has 1,700 staff.

Administrators called in the company's bankers said they could no longer provide adequate financial support. Fosters' stores have been hit by sales of branded sportswear which has affected sales of its own denim and casualwear ranges. A

disappointing Christmas and a deteriorating market led the group's bankers to call for a review of operations. The directors then applied for an administration order.

Fosters was founded in 1876 and was part of the Sears retail empire until 1992. It was then the subject of a management buy-out led by David Carter-Johnson. But with a weak brand and an increasingly competitive market, it has found the going tough. It now has significant debts and recorded a loss of £95m.

BDO Stoy Hayward is concentrating on stabilising the company's finances before any decision is made on a possible sale. BDO's David Gilbert said the plans were to turn Fosters into a leaner and profitable company "providing a platform for future growth".

Unions target Midland in recognition battle

By Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

background of bank profits which has risen by 28 per cent to £1,625m.

The MP's said a "dictatorial" management culture had no basis for developing a commitment to partnership as a basis for corporate success in the future" and urged the bank to adopt a policy of co-operation rather than confrontation.

The unions say more than half the managers are members and it would have little difficulty in winning a ballot on recognition.

A spokeswoman for the bank pointed out that clerical and administration staff still enjoyed full union negotiating rights. When the decision was taken less than half the managers were union members. Midland had set up a structure of consultative councils where elected representatives met senior managers.

The CBI has urged that more than half of the total workforce should have to opt for union bargaining rights before they were granted. The TUC believes it should be if half of those voting.

Worrying records in the markets



THE JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

Another week, another record-breaking merger, another stock market peak on both sides of the Atlantic. The bull market is certainly moving from the impressive to the awesome stage. It is less than 18 months since Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, warned about "irrational exuberance" in the stock market. Since then, share prices have risen by around 40 per cent, with the mighty bull trampling all before it.

Clearly, the latest mega-merger in the financial sector marks a new milestone, but quite what it foretells is not immediately clear. The get-together between Citicorp and Travelers Group will create the world's largest single company by asset value. Given that most corporate strategies are driven by emulation, it can only reinforce the trend towards consolidation in the financial sector in Europe.

Of course, in aggregate and over time, bouts of mega-mergers tend to leave shareholders nursing a nasty hangover. In practice, many of the

promised synergies fail to materialise. But one can hardly blame the managers of the big banks for opting for such grandiose visions at this time. News of the Citicorp/Travelers deal added more than 20 per cent overnight to the combined market capitalisation of the two companies, echoing the experience of many previous deals in the sector (Lloyds/TSB being a good example from the UK).

If investors were to beg publicly for more such deals to take place, they could hardly have given a clearer signal. What is striking is how the current enthusiasm for merger activity contrasts with attitudes just a few years ago. Then, most investors were trying to rein in managements. The whole "shareholder value" movement began as an attempt to put the brakes on corporate aggrandisement. Now, it is having the opposite effect.

Time will tell whether the trend towards consolidation is well founded in industrial logic and works to the long-term benefit of shareholders. As

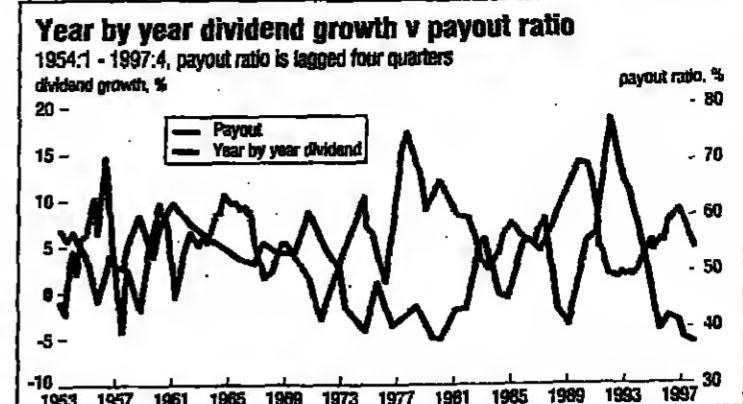
the New York economist, Peter Bernstein points out, the shift in attitudes is to the highly stretched valuations of the main stock markets at the moment. As has been widely observed, the bull market has driven the dividend yield on the American stock market (now 1.6 per cent) to just above its lowest recorded level. In the UK, the market yield is much higher, at 2.7 per cent, but still well below the long-run historical average.

Together, these factors amount to a huge – possibly unprecedented – vote of confidence by investors in the competence of corporate management. In the old days, the ability to pay a good dividend was seen as the benchmark of a sound company, and the payout ratio as a good proxy for management's confidence about the future prospects of the business.

Analysis of past data shows that the

dividend payout ratio has been a very good indicator of future corporate profitability. The higher the payout ratio, the faster earnings have tended to grow over the subsequent five years, and vice versa. By that token, its current record low is a warning signal: it means earnings in five years' time will be lower than they are today – not something which is factored in at all in current market thinking. Looked at another way, the value of reinvested dividends has always accounted for the lion's share of the total return earned by investors. But no longer.

The lower the dividend yield and the



dividend payout ratio, in effect, the less investors are relying on hard cash today, and the more they are relying on future projected earnings and high market multiples to make up their expected return from the stock market.

This inevitably means there is more risk in equities than before. As Peter Bernstein reminds us: "Managements are appropriating to themselves responsibility for the reinvestment of an outside proportion of earnings, rather than giving stockholders the option of deciding whether to reinvest in the same companies that produce the earnings." For investors, future returns will be

very much dependent on capital appreciation – "what someone else will be willing to pay at some point in the future for the assets you own today".

The point, as always, is to be aware of the longer-term risks you are running. At the very least, history suggests one needs to be cautious about the ability of managements always to act in the best interests of shareholders.

Yet today's markets are, in effect, bettering both that managements are capable of delivering better results for shareholders than ever before and that the markets will continue to recognise the fact in high p/e ratios.

UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET: JOHN ANDREW

How to reduce paper losses

Even if you lose a share certificate, the company still holds a register of your interests

Losing a share certificate, or having it eaten by the dog, is inconvenient but it is not a disaster. If this happens to you, do not panic, as it does not mean that you have lost your investment.

A share certificate is issued by a company to show that the shareholder's name has been entered in the company's register of shareholders.

All companies are legally required to maintain a register of shareholders, containing details of the name and address and the number of shares held by each shareholder in the company.

The register is normally maintained by a registrar, which is generally one of the big banks. However, a few companies maintain their own registers.

Despite the trend towards paperless share ownership with shares being held by a nominee, many people – myself included – prefer to hold certificates. We all know that financial documents should be kept in a safe place. Nevertheless, however careful we are, mishaps do happen. Should you find yourself in this situation, follow this step-by-step guide to put matters right.

Either write to the company or, preferably, direct to the registrars if you know who undertakes this role. The addresses will be in the company's report and accounts. If you have not got these, your stockbroker, local library or BT's directory enquiries will be able to help.

When you contact the company or registrars, give as many details as possible:



Lost property: place financial documents in safe keeping at your bank

Ruf Xavier

The name(s) the shares are registered in.

If the company issues more than one category of share, identify which you hold.

State the number of shares held.

If possible, the serial number of the certificate(s).

It would be helpful to enclose a photocopy of the latest dividend voucher.

In due course, the company's registrars will contact you. They may ask you to complete a form regarding your loss.

Before issuing a duplicate certificate a "letter of indemnity" will normally be forwarded for signature by all the parties in whose name the lost share certificate was issued.

In certain cases, generally when the market value of the shares represented by the lost share certificate is in excess of £5,000, the letter of indemnity will have to be countersigned by a bank or insurance company. However, the £5,000 figure is not an universal – some companies insist on the indemnity being countersigned for lower levels.

An indemnity is a contract in which the indemnifier (in this case the shareholder who lost

the certificate), promises to compensate the other party (in this situation the company who issued the now lost certificate) should that party suffer any loss as a result of the issue of a duplicate share certificate. It is unusual, though not unknown, for there to be foul play surrounding a loss.

The requirement of a bank or insurance company to countersign the letter of indemnity may be viewed as a "belt and braces" approach. In situations where the indemnity has been countersigned, the company has two courses of action. If the first party, that is the shareholder, for some reason cannot reimburse the company for any loss that it has suffered as a result of issuing the duplicate certificate, then the countersignatory will be obliged to pay. This is why the party countersigning the indemnity has to be of undoubted integrity.

Banks and insurance companies also have their own interests to protect. They will generally take a counter-indemnity from the shareholder who has lost the certificate. In other words, if they are obliged to pay, in turn they have a right to seek reimbursement from the shareholder.

It makes sound sense to look after all financial documents carefully. Placing them in safe keeping at your bank is probably the best course of action.

The Income PEP with massive growth

159% Income Growth*

437% Capital Growth*

THE MERCURY INCOME PEP

CALL NOW 0800 882 884

To: Brochure Requests, Mercury Asset Management, FREEPOST NS1930, London EC40 4DD. Please send me details of the Mercury Income Fund. PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

Title _____ Surname _____

Forename (initials) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Ref: IND16/98

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

Pensions by phone.

You can pick up the phone and get pensions

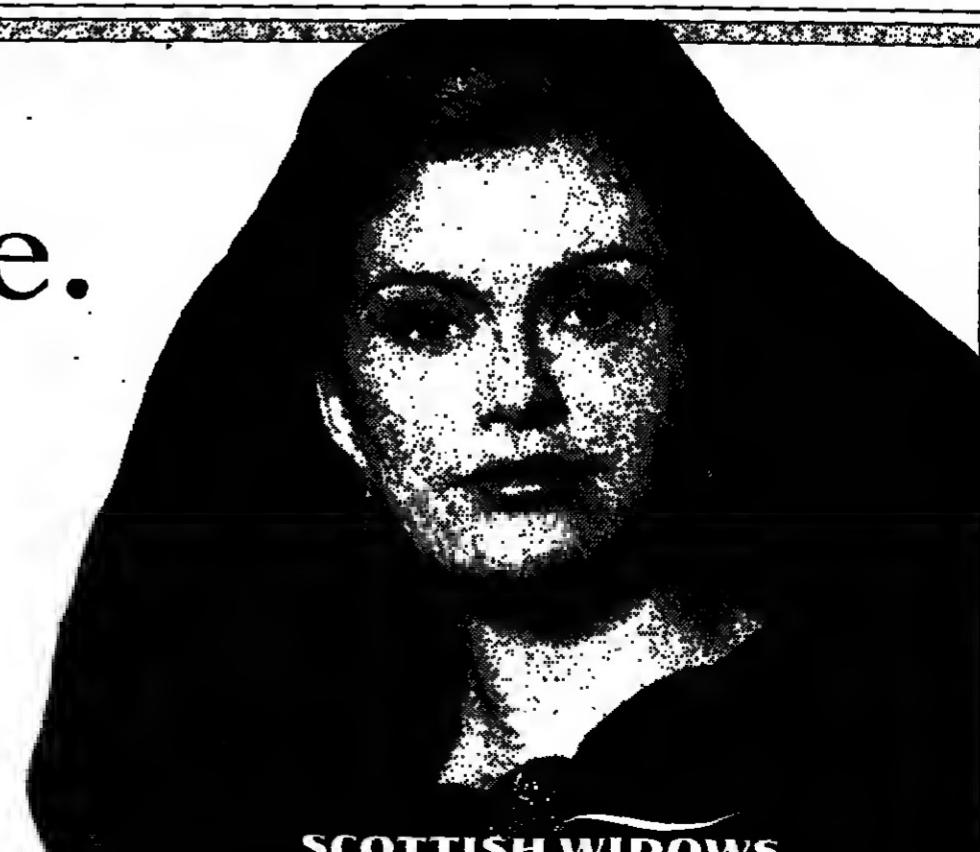
information or advice

and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

Call, 8am-10pm, 7 days a week quoting ref: 288D924

0345 6789 10

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.



SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Looking good for your pension.

For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored and information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

BEST BORROWING RATES						
	Telephone	% Rate and period	Max 3rd %	Fee	Incentive	
MORTGAGES						
FIXED RATES						
Stamford Rock	0890 130140	0.65% for 1 year	95%	£750	No MP for adv up to 85%	
Prudential	0890 168617	5.49% to 20.01	85%	£295	No high lending fee (MP)	
Norman Rock	0845 605 0500	5.99% to 19.03	95%	£295	No MP for adv up to 85%	
VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES						
Wesley & Rugby	0890 774429	0.10% for 1 year	80%	£250	Free val, £250 fee refund	
Prudential	0890 050088	4.4% to 30.00	75%	£250	-	
Norman Rock	0845 605 0500	5.65% to 19.01	95%	-	Refund val	
FIRST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES						
Woolwich	0845 757575	5.70% for 1 year	95%	£195	5.5% of advance refunded	
Frost & Sage	0890 080988	5.59% to 33.01	90%	£195	No high lending fee (MP)	
Nationwide	0890 300100	6.69% for 5 years	95%	£295	Refund of val fee	
UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS						
Telephone	APR %	Paid monthly payments on £50 over 3 yrs				
UNSECURED						
Norman Rock	0845 421421	9.9% F	£183.13	£156.11		
Woolwich	0890 221212	12.5%	£190.33	£165.77		
Direct Line	0181 500 9995	12.8% F	£187.75	£166.38		
SECURED LOANS (SECOND CHARGE)						
Telephone	APR	Max LTV Advance	Term			
Cheshire Bank	0890 250003	9.7%	Reg 125 to 150%	6 months to 25 years		
Royal Bank of Scotland	0890 121121	10.7%	Reg 125 to 140%	3 years to return*		
First Direct	0845 0010103	11.2%	Reg 125 to Reg	Up to 40 years		
OVERDRAFTS						
Telephone	Account	Approved	Unapproved			
Alliance & Leicester	0509 959995	Alliance	0.95%	12.00% 2.25%	39.8%	
Bank of Scotland Direct	0500 804804	Direct cheque	-	11.0%	-	36.8%
Nationwide	0890 300100	Reaccount	0.95%	12.2% 2.10%	38.3%	
CREDIT CARDS						
Telephone	Card Type	Rate % pm	APR %	Annual Int. free Min. Fee	Penalty Income	
Capital One Bank	0890 699000	Visa	0.55%W 6.50%W	NH	54 days £20K	
RBS Assets	0800 077770	Visa	0.65%W 7.50%W	NH	55 days	
Co-operative Bank	0890 109000	AAdvantage Visa	0.60%W 8.60%W	NH	55 days £20K	
GOLD CARDS						
Capital One Bank	0890 699000	Visa	0.55%W 6.50%W	NH	54 days £20K	
Co-operative Bank	0345 21212	Base Rate Visa	0.60%W 11.90%	£120	46 days £20K	
RBS Assets	0800 077770	Visa	0.64%W 7.50%W	NH	55 days £20K	
STORE CARDS						
Telephone	Payment by direct debit	Payment by other methods				
	% PM	APR %	% PM	APR		
John Lewis	01204 212121	1.30%	18.0%	1.30%	18.0%	
BHS	0800 123123	1.50%	26.0%	2.15%	29.0%	
Marks & Spencer	0124 661681	1.97%	26.3%	2.07%	27.8%	
<small>* A - Minimum age 22 yrs. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers ** APR = Annual percentage rate ASU = Accident, sickness and unemployment insurance S+P = Standard protection covers domestic items HP = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged LTV = Loan to value LHP = Mortgage liability premium N = Introductory rate for a limited period U = Unemployment insurance</small>						
<small>* If companion is below 18.99% All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677 8 April 1998</small>						

*Source: Miprolab, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/3/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Portfolio Trust has been available as a PEP since January 1995. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security, all calls are recorded. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group, Registered Office 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business and by IMRO.

Royal & SunAlliance



Portfolio Growth PEP
Superb track record*...
Years: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Quartile: 1st 1st 1st 1st 1st 1st 1st 1st 1st 2nd
For a special pack with full details, please contact your Financial Adviser, return the coupon below, or telephone 0645 100555 (weekdays 8am to 8pm, weekends 9am to 6pm)

To: Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management (PGP), FREEPOST SCE5807, Reading Berkshire RG10 9ZY. Please send me details of the Portfolio Growth PEP.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Date of Birth _____

1154

The best of both worlds...

- Unlimited Growth Potential
- AND
- Guaranteed Capital Protection (on the 5th anniversary)

The Best of Both Worlds

PORTFOLIO GROWTH PEP

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

COLLECT TO INVEST: JOHN WINDSOR

Triumph of British classics

Prices of vintage British bikes are revving up as an older generation returns to the road



Driven by nostalgia: Roger Sharman has seen UK demand accelerate recently. Bryn Colton

Prices of vintage British motorcycles are rising so quickly that Roger Sharman is importing them from the United States.

Polished metal glints through tall hedgerows as you approach Cake Street Classics, a garage and homestead surrounded by flat fields near Laxfield, in the heart of rural Suffolk. From here, a British bike still with Ohio number plates may be shipped to Oslo, Munich or even Reykjavik.

Recently, encouraged by the strength of the pound, especially against other European currencies, British bike enthusiasts have been buying the lion's share of vintage bikes on offer, and pushing prices up as well. Two years ago, Mr Sharman, a 49-year-old former biker – was exporting 60 per cent of his stock to Europe. Now, the Brits are taking 90 per cent.

His own cherished 1960 BSA Spitfire street scrambler, one of only 1,200 made, was discovered in a barn in New Jersey and is now resplendent following the four-week restoration he lavished upon it. Such a bike would have been bought in the US as a fun runabout. Almost as a toy. Nowadays, almost all American collectors are after only their native Harley-Davidsons and Japanese models.

In the British and European collectors' market, the Spitfire would have been worth £5,000 two years ago and £7,000 a year ago. Today, he would be looking for £8,500. If he was selling, that is.

It's nostalgia that drives the British market, he reckons. That means bikes of the Sixties and early Seventies are most in demand. Daredevils who raced them from cafe to cafe on main roads are now approaching middle age. Mr Sharman says: "Their children are off their hands and they have paid off their mortgage. As soon as they

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

To answer these and other

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

Retirement planning can be fraught with questions. How much will you be entitled to from the state? Should you join your company scheme? Is a personal pension right for you? What kind of pension should you look for?

To answer these and other

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

questions, *The Independent* is offering readers a free, 26-page guide, sponsored by Eagle Star, a low-cost personal pension provider, and written by Nic Cieuti, personal finance editor of this paper. You can ask for one by calling 0800 776666. Or check out the coupon on this page.

Be in on the best deals and for tenants

very in the housing market has meant rising rents and a shortage of lets, Jade reports

Problems faced by would-be renters are the opposite end of those that once owners. Over the past two years, rising house prices have allowed many hard-pressed homeowners to climb back out of negative equity.

Figures from Halifax show the price of the average UK house rose 5.4 per cent in 1997. Leading the growth was greater London, where an increase of 15.2 per cent took the price of the average house back above £100,000 for the first time since 1989.

But this good news for homeowners is bad news for would-be tenants. Negative equity created a group of so-called "reluctant landlords" who could afford to move home only by letting out their old property. About half of the property lets managed

by estate agents are owned by people working overseas or in another part of the UK. Many of these landlords are selling up as their existing tenants' leases come to an end. The result is a shortage of good-quality private-rented accommodation, and soaring rents for that which remains.

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, the chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, says: "Many landlords are selling, and that does create shortages. Hence, rents will go up."

Judging by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' (Rics) latest report on residential renting, this is happening all over the country. Rics member, Mike Humble, of Ottery St Mary, Devon, reports: "A complete lack of properties coming on to the residential sales market [is] leading to increased rents for those that do become available."

Patrick Waters, of Solihull, West Midlands, agrees, saying: "There is a shortage of good-quality property, and rents are creeping upwards." David Moulton of Southampton says rents in areas near him have been climbing by 10 per cent a year.

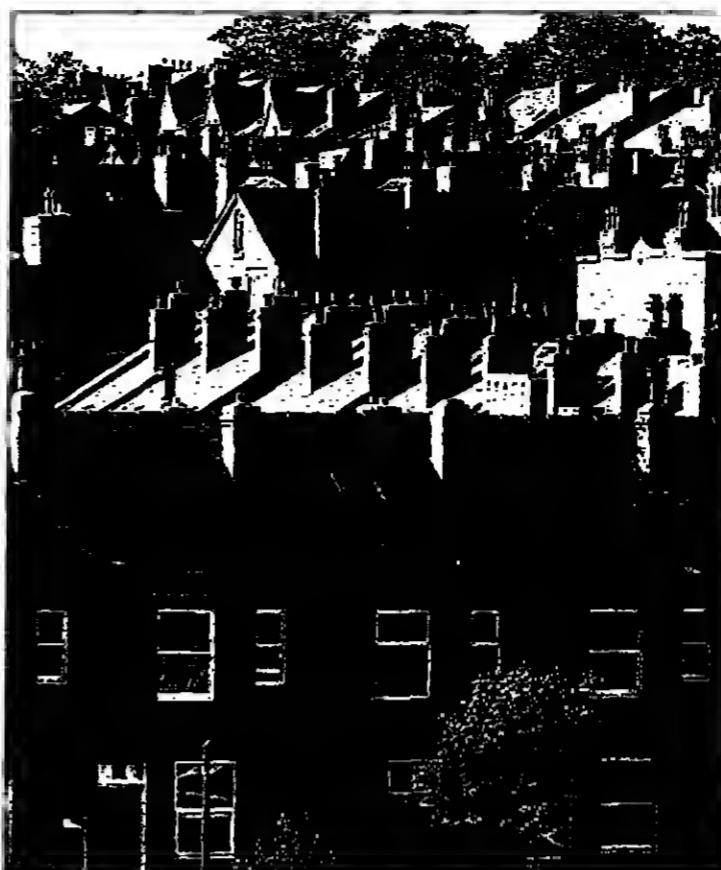
As the table below shows, rents have

been climbing fastest at the top end of the market, where the excess of demand over supply is biggest. Rising rents are not the only hurdle tenants face. Care is also needed in choosing a good letting agent. In many cases, it is the agent who will retain your deposit. You will want to be sure this deposit is safe and that it will earn interest for you until the tenancy ends.

Mr Dunsmore-Hardy says: "Once a tenant has agreed to rent a property, they may have to lodge anything from a month to six weeks' deposit. The important thing is to deal with an agent who has a money-protection scheme in place. The tenant's also entitled to have the deposit accruing interest, the benefit of which comes to him."

A money-protection scheme means your deposit will be safe even if your letting agent goes bust or disappears. If the agent you use is a member of the Naea, Rics or Aria (Association of Residential Letting Agents), they probably have a money-protection scheme - but you should still check.

For a free copy of Rics' guide, 'Renting a House or Flat', call 0171-222 7000.



Less room at the top: Rents are rising as more landlords sell up

- Checklist for Tenants**
- Check what term you are signing up for. Tenancy agreements known in the jargon as assured short-hold tenancies typically run for six months, but can run for longer.
 - Check what furniture, fittings and appliances are included in the let. Ensure the inventory records any damage already there when you move in.
 - Furniture and appliances included with the let must meet statutory fire and safety requirements. If in doubt, ask to see the landlord's certificates of compliance.
 - The letting agent should give you a written statement specifying the rent, deposit and any charge to you for drawing up the tenancy agreement. Check who is to pay future costs for items such as checking the inventory or renewing the agreement.
 - Ask who will be holding your deposit and whether the money will earn you interest. If the letting agent is to hold it, check they have a money-protection scheme. Check how you get the deposit back.
 - Establish who is responsible for any repairs to the property and who you can approach to sort out any problems. The letting agent must give you an address in England and Wales you can contact.
 - Before you sign the tenancy agreement check all utilities are connected at the property. Read the meters and note what they say. If there is a garden, check whether you are responsible for its care.
 - Check if you are agreeing to any conditions which apply when you move out. Some landlords specify you must clean all the carpets, for example.
 - Insure any valuables you are bringing into the flat. The landlord's insurance will not cover this.
 - Get a receipt if you pay rent or a deposit in cash.

AVERAGE MONTHLY RENTS THROUGHOUT THE UK

	End 1996	End 1997	Increase
One-bedroom flat	£295	£310	5.1%
Three-bedroom semi	£422	£464	9.9%
Four-bedroom det.	£589	£656	11.4%
Average UK house (sale price)	£66,117	£69,647	5.4%

Source: RICS/Halifax



ROBIN AMILOT
INTERNET
INVESTOR

A screen showing the news that moves markets

There is an old joke, at least as old as the internet, about the company's Topic3 system used by city professionals, is targeted specifically at the PC literate investor.

Market-Eye on the internet now has 24,000 registered users regularly accessing its free pages and a further 1,000 paying customers accessing real-time share prices, rather than seeing them with a 20-minute delay imposed. The site also offers a bulletin board service where you can post questions and comments on investment matters for others to read and answer.

Datastream/ICV is working on a service called InvestorLink, which is not available yet, in the words of that immortal unknown software designer, will be there "soon". It is aimed at the investor relations and shareholder information market. "Price-moving information is only going to the professionals now. This way it will be available to private investors," comments David Joyce.

Information will be accessed directly from the companies themselves. InvestorLink will include news, historical comparisons and peer rankings, along with company's financial calendars, corporate governance issues and any other specific investor information a company wants to communicate. It will not be an unbiased news service because the coverage of each company will contain information provided by the company.

Datastream/ICV hopes that it will be the kind of information which, in the past, has been available to the city trader immediately but which the private investor will only have read in his newspaper the following day.

Finally, a word of warning for when the site does go live. Do remember to use the right suffix when you key in InvestorLink's web address - that is: ".co.uk". If you type in ".com" instead you will be magically whisked across the Atlantic to a website run by a financial adviser in California.

As we, as investors, become more sophisticated in handling our financial affairs, our information requirements also become more sophisticated. Datastream/ICV's Market-Eye internet

The Corporate Bond PEP

Source: LGIM (06.04.98). The running yield of the Fixed Interest Trust was 6.8% (6.2% redemption yield) as at 6 April 1998. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in Unit Trusts. Tax assumptions are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request. Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered in England No. 2702060. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TB. Representative of the only of Legal & General manufacturing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. A member of AUTIF. Investors should be aware that unlike cash in a Deposit Account the capital value of investments in Fixed Interest Trusts is not guaranteed. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new tax-privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available.

Legal & General have led the way in providing low cost, high performance PEPs to our customers.

Over the years, our determination to provide outstanding value for money has meant that today Legal & General Investment Management has in excess of £60 billion under management.

A glance at the table shows that we deliver unbeatable value, providing the lowest cost diversified Corporate Bond PEP on the market with annual management charges of only 0.5%, with no initial charges on lump sum investments or withdrawal fees.

So, for a regular, tax-free income on your savings find out more about Britain's best value Income PEP today.

Just complete and return the coupon.

INVEST

NOW

to make the most
of your final year's
PEP allowance

PROVIDER	ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE	RUNNING YIELD*
Legal & General Corporate Bond PEP	0.5%	6.8%
Individual Moneybuilder PEP	0.7%	6.6%
Corporate Bond PEP	0.7%	6.6%
Individual Retirement Fund PEP	1.2%	6.3%

NO initial charges
NO withdrawal fee
0.5% annual management charge

Visit our web site at www.LandG.com

Find out more now -
phone free

0500 116622

8am to 8pm weekdays,
9am to 5pm weekends.

Please quote ref: CTDJ16

For your protection,
calls are usually
monitored and
randomly monitored.

8

C7DJ16

YES I would like more information about the Legal & General Corporate Bond PEP. Post to: Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC0467, Cardiff CF1 1YW. If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here

We may telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick here

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Forename(s)

Address

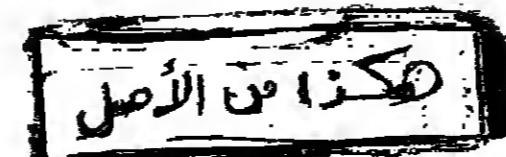
Postcode

Date of birth / /

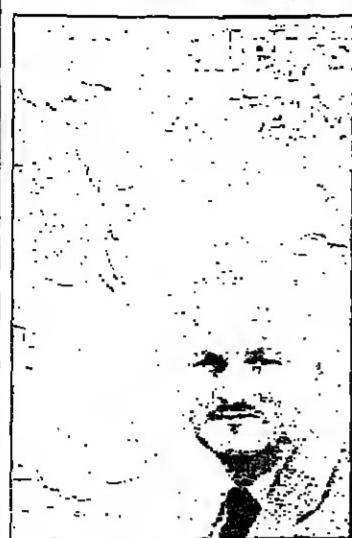
Tel. No. Home _____

Tel. No. Work _____


Legal & General



Leap of faith by the men of God



Easingwold:
Church leaders meeting at the site of a Cold War bunker opine that not all is gloom for religion, despite priestly sex abuse scandals and falling congregations

GORDON the driver edged the car through the security barrier to the Victorian country house. It seemed an elaborate precaution for a mere conference centre on the outskirts of the undistinguished little village of Easingwold, just the north of York. "Ah well," he said, drawing on his years in the Territorial Army, "during the Cold War, it was ... and this is pretty much an open secret locally." He added, as if to reassure himself he was not betraying military confidences "... an underground command bunker for top brass in the event of nuclear attack."

Today the house, Hawkhill, is the headquarters of the Home Office Emergency Planning College, where key personnel from public authorities, voluntary groups and private firms gather - discreetly tucked away from public view amid its 230 acres of farmland and woods - to discuss the kind of things most of us would rather not think about: a massive radioactive leak from a nuclear plant, an epidemic of rabies, a major emergency in a built-up area. They engage in exercises on co-ordinating emergency services, mitigating the psychological consequences of disaster and study the escalation of "blame culture" in the media.

All of which, cynics might say,

sounds exactly the kind of training needed by the leaders of the nation's churches who gathered there last week for a confidential meeting on the place of religion in the modern world. After all, with falling attendances in all the mainstream denominations, priestly sex abuse scandals, and secret memos admitting that the Church of England is becoming increasingly irrelevant, it might seem that a spot of Emergency Planning is well in order. That, clearly, could be the only reason for every bishop - Anglican and Catholic, with their Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army and other church equivalents in the half of the country covered by the province of York - to assemble in private for two days. Couldn't it?

So cynics might say. The trouble with cynics is that they sometimes overlook the straightforward in their search for the contemptible. It's something we in the media routinely do when it comes to the church. Yes, of course, there are rows and scandals, and politicking and personality conflicts, but the stuff at the very heart of church affairs - what is going on this Easter weekend - never gets into the papers at all. It's like covering football only with stories on transfer deals, managerial sackings and boardroom scandals - and

never writing a match report. The Northern bishops meet privately like this every year. And certainly in the plenary sessions, smaller groups and in the coffee-break conversations they did talk about all that kind of thing - how to deal with sex abuse by Catholic priests or what to do about an Anglican minister who has run off with someone he met on the Internet. They talked of unease about the Prime Minister's recent interference over the appointment of a new Anglican Bishop of Liverpool and of whether Catholic bishops should accept places in the House of Lords. They shared stories of how on separate occasions Tony Blair and Gordon Brown had both recently privately confided to bishops that it was up to the Church to keep the Government "on its toes".

But the core of their concern was something considerably more far-reaching. For it is clear listening to bishops speak in private that they are becoming aware that the reality of most people's lives is remote from the way the church speaks to them. Indeed the old religious vocabulary and forms can be worse than meaningless because they actively alienate those the church seeks to influence.

They are not talking about adopting secular values uncritically; some already feel uneasy at being engaged in a conspiracy of silence - on divorce, single parents and, in the case of the Catholics, contraception - for fear of offending large sections of their congregations. But there is a growing realisation that the modern post-Christian world needs more than ever some of the values the Church holds dear - love, giving, service and a vision that the good of the community is as important as the Eighties shibboleths about individual choice and personal fulfilment.

So what we need is a return to religion? Not necessarily. Certainly not if it means the old authoritarian kind or the encouragement of half-baked New Age spirituality. But, as one of their number told them, the churches need to play a role in re-moralising a multi-cultural plu-



Just north of York Minster the bishops gathered for their annual meeting. Photograph: Peter Byrne/Guzelian

ralist society. In that "communication is as important as wisdom", said another, and if bishops and others insisted on pushing old religious forms and traditional family norms in a changed world they were doomed to failure. It is not just a question of language. The church may need to rethink some of its inherited ideas if it is to pass on its essential values.

Those nurtured on stereotypes

about Trollopean schemers or intellectual idealists would have been sadly disillusioned at Easingwold. What was striking was not just the maturity of the friendship between the key figures in the different denominations and the quiet power of their services together. Nor was it the degree of self-knowledge; one Papist divine jested that he had been brought up to believe not just that

Jesus was Roman Catholic, but that his mother was too. But there was a directness about their discussion which the restrained discretion of their public utterances belies.

If only they could talk like that to the public. In private they were blunt about the enormity of the task in hand. They are worried about inequality in a world in which the entire contents of the Bodleian library can be sent round the globe in one second and yet half the world has

no telephone. Or, as one of those present put it, "there is talk now that intergalactic travel may one day be possible and yet the bus services are being cut in Billingham". They were worried, too, about the loss of Britain's sense of the transcendent: "the problem with young vandals is that they have no sense of awe," said one, succinctly. "If you have no sense of history the present is the only truth," suggested another.

There were the inevitable diversions into the question of Christian unity. But suggestions about the need to put their own house in order did not seem a first priority. "Schisms are not necessarily a bad thing," said one. "Perhaps we have to learn that the diversity of the churches is a blessing rather than a hindrance in speaking to the post-modern world," said another.

"We have to learn to listen to people we don't want to listen to - the marginalised, people in jail," said one bishop. "And to children," said another who had been a key figure in the response to child abuse by Catholic priests. And, even, to the voices and actions of ordinary churchgoers whose faith is unencumbered by the niceties of doctrine and denominational diplomacy: "It was, after all," said one bishop, "the ordinary people who took down the Berlin Wall."

This moment is, said one of the archbishops, a "charcoal fire moment" for the church. Some of his colleagues looked puzzled. He explained. It was by a charcoal fire in the courtyard of the High Priests' house that Peter betrayed Christ three times. And it was at a charcoal fire by the Sea of Galilee that Peter merely resurrected Christ and began to understand the enormity of what he'd gone wrong. It was the first step in showing him where he should go from there. It was an Easter experience. The bishops scribbled "I expect that will find its way into my sermons on Easter Sunday," he said. His fellows laughed and nodded. So if you hear that in church tomorrow, remember, that was good news exclusively and you read it here first.



THE
NEW
VOLVO
V70
TORSLANDA.
EXPANSIVE
NOT
EXPENSIVE.

The new Volvo V70 Torslanda is well worth looking into. It offers everything you'd want from a Volvo estate: canyon-size space (56 cubic feet); the very latest safety equipment (SIPS, side airbags, driver's airbag, ABS), plus all the features you need to make driving a pleasure (6 speaker radio/cassette, electric mirrors, power steering).

The Volvo V70 Torslanda from £19,495 on the road. Or from £399 per month through Volvo Contract Hire. For further details or to arrange a test drive, telephone

0800 070 070

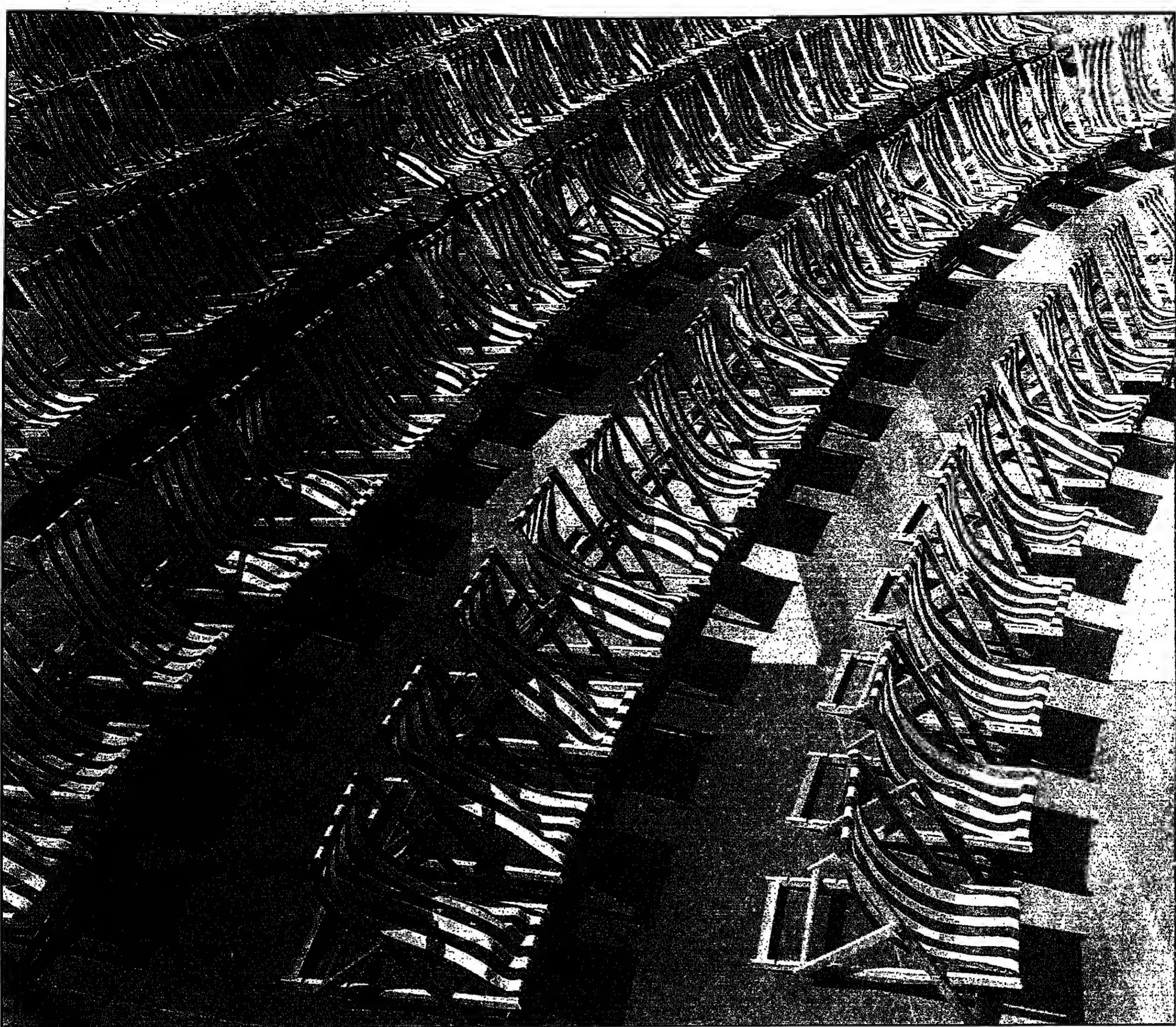
VOLVO. A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.



TIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT

Saturday 11 April 1998



PICTURE OF THE WEEK Deckchairs in Eastbourne by Tom Pilson. To order a 12x9in print (price £15) call 0171-293 2534

Week in, week out

William Hartston explains what you get if you cross a manhole with a three-legged deer

What a week it has been: in France a driver killed a cyclist and injured another after she was distracted by distress signals emitted by the Tamagotchi virtual pet on the end of her car key-ring; in Pennsylvania a white-tailed deer has been fitted with an artificial leg; in London, a meteorite was sold at auction for more than twice its estimate; in Budapest, five people were arrested on suspicion of stealing about 100

deckchairs in Marseille, distracting the driver into taking her eye off the road in order to provide it with virtual food; it should all have been so predictable – an accident waiting to happen. While we have been worrying about the dangers of mobile phones to cars, the insidious threat of the Tamagotchi was lurking.

In Bangkok, governor Bikit Rattakul has warned city officials to improve drain safety after he fell into an open manhole on his way to lay a wreath at the monument to a former king. "I was a little bruised," he said. "If I were thinner, I would have fallen deeper into the sewage."

The officials will now surely be panicked into looking for a quick, cheap way to cover the manholes, which is where the Hungarians come in. "Open manholes, squire? We've got just the thing: 100 doors and wrought iron portals, perfect for laying across holes in the road, and guaranteed to prevent any gormand, however thin, from falling into the effluent beneath."

But the open manholes are only the start. Why, we must ask ourselves, did an anonymous American bidder pay £25,300 at Christie's for a 5-toe meteorite that had been estimated to fetch between £10,000 and £12,000? For the answer, we need only consider what meteorites do when they crash to earth: why, they make craters! A meteorite is nothing less than nature's way of making holes in the road. And the more holes, the greater the potential market for stoledoors.

Easter is a far from festive season for Jewish hippos and elephants

doors and iron portals; in Thailand, the governor of Bangkok fell down a manhole, and in Bucharest, the Romanian football team have left a training camp where they were preparing for a friendly against Greece because it was too close to a cemetery.

It's all so glaringly obvious what has been going on. We have been blind not even to have suspected it before. Yet now all the evidence is staring us in the face, and we can hardly miss it: a worldwide clandestine group of road safety experts is conspiring to revolutionise the transport systems of the civilised world and drive bicycle manufacturers out of business.

The Japanese were to at the start of it. Who their Tamagotchi bleeped so plaintively in that car in Marseille, distracting the driver into taking her eye off the road in order to provide it with virtual food, it should all have been so predictable – an accident waiting to happen. While we have been worrying about the dangers of mobile phones to cars, the insidious threat of the Tamagotchi was lurking.

all over the world, we will face a double plague. On the one hand, of holes in the road crudely covered with stolen doors, and on the other, of cyclists who, if they are not mown down by Tamagotchi-loving motorists, will surely come to grief as their machines mount an unexpected door in the middle of the road. Those Romanian footballers were quite right to quit their training ground near the cemetery.

The first recorded death by Tamagotchi happened earlier this week in Marseilles

Not only will the place soon be overflowing with dead cyclists, but their funerals will be accompanied by the incessant bleating of the Tamagotchis that lured them to their doom. How can a footballer keep his eye on the ball with all that going on? Yet this is far more than simply a clever marketing device for stoledoors. That is only the start, as the rest of the week's news reveals. The second phase began in Somerset, Pennsylvania, where a white-tailed deer named Roadrunner has had an artificial leg fitted. Associated Press reports: "The clunking of his aluminium prosthesis alerts bystanders to his movements, but Roadrunner doesn't seem to mind." Of course he doesn't mind! He

knows he is the first of a new breed of cyberdeer designed to take over the roads of the world. What bleeping Tamagotchi will stand a chance of distracting anyone, when compared with the clunk of a deer's aluminium leg? And what better to surmount those bumps in the road caused by doors laid flat over open manholes and meteorite craters?

If there's one thing better than a deer at overcoming obstacles, it's an elephant. And our final news story of the week provides the last piece of the jigsaw. At the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem the elephants and hippos are unhappy because they are being deprived of their usual 10 loaves of bread every day because of the Passover. Zoo officials say they're concerned that keepers and visitors might come into contact with leavened foods, which are forbidden over the period. Excuses! Isn't it obvious they're slimming down the elephants to maintain jobs for three-legged deer? Five-inch craters would never bother an elephant, so to avoid the potential problem of Jewish mahouts taking the bottom out of the market for cyberdeer, they're slimming down the elephants to make them useless.

With the roads of Europe full of three-legged deer and emaciated elephants, there will be an even stronger incentive for people to take to the air. Is it any surprise, therefore, to learn (see page 3) that Virgin Atlantic is training people to overcome their fear of flying? Richard Branson has a good deal of explaining to do.

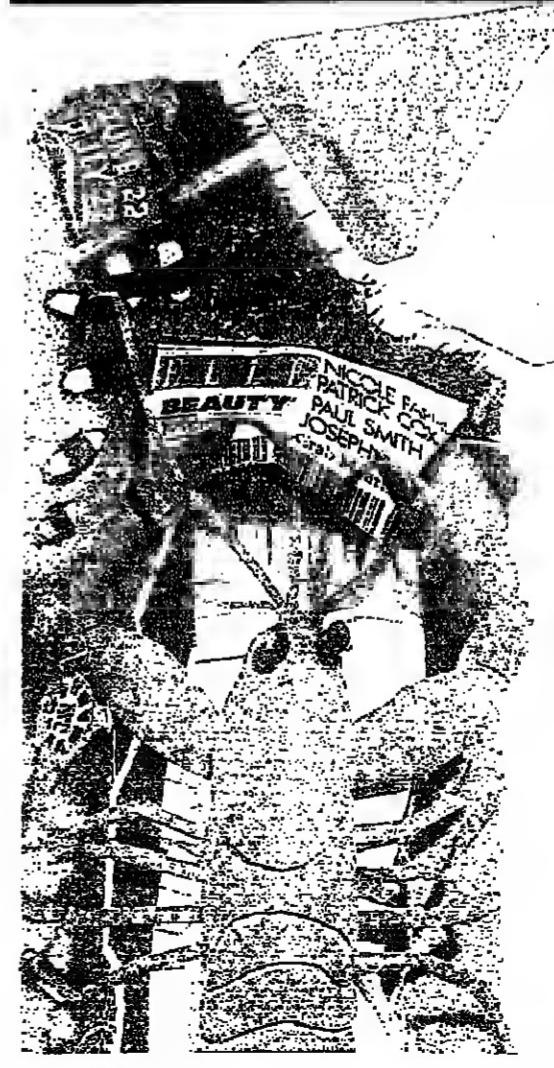
INSIDE

■ TRAVEL

48 hours in	
Jerusalem	3
Vine romance in	
Bordeaux	4
Turkey	5/6
Hot air ballooning	7

■ SPORT

Golf: the battle for	
the Masters	26
Football: Bolton's	
fight for survival	24
Rugby Union: Richard	
Hill lifts Gloucester	20





SIMON CALDER

... and I'd like to pay a special tribute to Bill Gates and all at Microsoft for developing the software that's enabled me electronically to dispatch these words all the way from Bogotá, Colombia.

Sorry - I was just getting carried away by the current gushing glut of gratitude that seems to accompany every new travel book. The author of the new *Cuba Handbook*, Sarah Cameron, pays tribute to her daughters, Katie and Jenny, "for their tolerance, encouragement and complete conviction that Mummy's book is by far the best on Cuba".

Not wishing to venture too far along John Gunner and David Mellor's path of enlisting the support of one's offspring for the purpose of career advancement, I have been looking at the acknowledgements across a range of guidebooks. A surprising number read like the covers of Seventies' albums. For example, Mike Parker - one of the writers of the *Rough Guide to Wales* - offers "a huge *díolch* to Rhian Williams at the Wales Tourist Board", and thanks an intriguing list of individuals including Squidge, Dr Funkenstein and his co-author Paul Whitfield (the favour is not returned).

Across at Lonely Planet, the backscratching is mutual: one author of the guidebook to the Czech and Slovak Republics, John King, offers his co-author "mocrou děkuji to Richard for heroic work"; the response from Richard Nebesky is "last but not least, *dík to John*".

Among this swath of acknowledgements I found myself wanting to find out more about the events leading up to the fulsome thanks paid to Michal Hnida of the Vrana dolina Mountain Rescue Service.

A similarly intriguing incident is alluded to by James Henderson, author of the *Cadogan Guide to the Caribbean and the Bahamas*: "Thanks also to all those at Cadogan who pulled this edition together and were (more or less) unfazed by the author's sudden departure for another continent". Mr Henderson casts his net rather wider in his gratitude to others: "My thanks go to all West Indians".

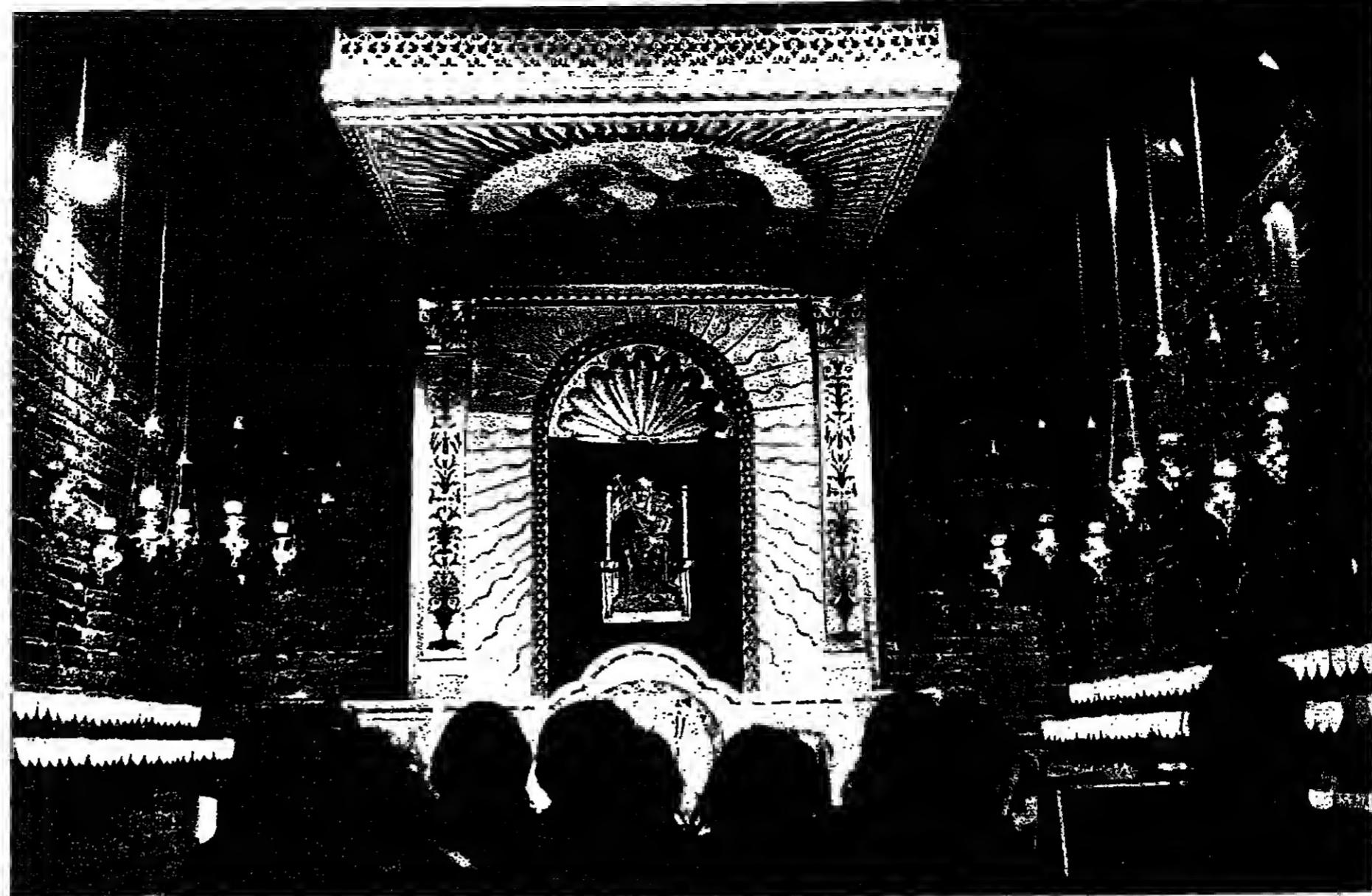
My gratitude will be limitless to anyone who can come up with a more comprehensive list than my 1992 edition of *Alternative London*, whose first page begins "Compiled with the help of friends, file-spies, moles, insiders, survivors..." and ends, after listing 70 other occupations, "... psychotherapists, philosophers". Not a word about children.

Finally, I'd like to thank my colleague, Harriet O'Brien, for attending the first-ever Virgin Atlantic Airways fear of flying course in Crawley last weekend, while I was otherwise engaged in the Colombian capital.

Some of the airlines around here take a rather different attitude to easing flyers' anxieties; in at the deep end. Looking at the accident statistics in this mountainous, stormy country, a fatalist might conclude that if you can survive a domestic flight here, you will be able to cope with aviation anywhere. You could call it a crash course.

The airlines here have even fewer frills than BA's new low-fare offshoot. Go - they don't even bother repainting their second-hand aircraft. I was alarmed to find that one scheduled aircraft on a domestic flight still bore the markings of a now-defunct British charter airline. The front cover of tickets issued by another carrier, Aces, bears a phone number and the invitation to call it to report "defectos de servicio". And the company ambitiously named Intercontinental promises it is the "Young Jet Airline", but I suspect that this doesn't refer to the DC-9 I flew on.

Thanks, anyway.



Double vision:
inside the
replica of the
Holy House of
Nazareth, at
Walsingham
Photograph:
John Vass

Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Easter is a crucial time for a small village in Norfolk where, over the centuries, religious significance has continued to build. By Sue Gaisford

When Dr Beeching took his famous axe to a branch line in Norfolk, he couldn't have guessed that his pruning would be so productive. Today, where once the regular service ran, a tiny, gleaming steam engine called the Norfolk Hero pulls visitors up a narrow-gauge track for five miles, from Wells-next-the-Sea to Little Walsingham. But they no longer alight at the old station, for that too has been reborn. Instead of withering rustily away, the diminutive Victorian building now proudly accommodates the Eastern Orthodox church of St Seraphim. Inside, in the soft light of thin, yellow tapers, the old booking-hall is full of spring flowers, glowing with sad-eyed, brightly painted saints; in what was probably the waiting-room, an icon workshop flourishes.

And that's not all. St Seraphim's is only one of three centres of Eastern Orthodoxy within a couple of miles. Take the road towards Snettisham and turn off to the left, and you'll come to the minuscule hamlet of Great Walsingham, where in 1986 a handsome Methodist chapel became the Church of the Transfiguration. More of those distinctive icons decorate the roof screen - St Seraphim, again, St Withburga and St Furse.

The third and smallest chapel is the first to open. It occupies an upper room in the Anglican church and originally

catered for locally held prisoners of war. That's an awful lot of orthodoxy for a small town in the middle of farmland, miles from anywhere. But Walsingham is a strange and, you might say, rather unorthodox spot.

In 1061, the Blessed Virgin appeared to a woman called Richeldis de Faverches and instructed her to build a replica of the Holy House of Nazareth, at Walsingham. Richeldis obeyed and, as news of her vision spread, visitors began arriving. An Augustinian priory was built beside the Holy House, and its reputation grew. Miracles were reported: in the enormous flint wall surrounding the priory grounds there is still a little doorway, known as the Knight's Gate, barely 2ft high. They say that a knight was fleeing from his enemies who were right at his heels.

A despairing appeal to Our Lady of Walsingham resulted in his finding himself, and his horse, safely in sanctuary on the other side of the wall, and the baddies unable to pass through the tiny door.

All the medieval kings came here on pilgrimage, from Henry III up to and including Henry VIII. The shrine became second only to Rome as a major destination for pilgrims, and the town grew accordingly.

But everything changed abruptly with the dissolution of the monasteries. The Holy House and its priory were pulled down and a famous statue of Mary sitting with her

child on her knee was smashed up; the great seal of the place, which showed a carving of the statue, disappeared.

No longer were new houses needed, so nobody bothered to pull down many of the old ones. As the place slipped back into insignificance, the buildings remained, dozens of superb examples of medieval and Tudor architecture lining the narrow streets - built of virtually every material available, from something that looks suspiciously like wattle and daub, through half-timbering, brick and flint to carved stone:

The place began to stir again towards the end of the 19th century when a Benedictine oblate called Charlotte Boyd discovered the Slipper Chapel. This perfect little church, built in 1325, was then in use as a cowshed, but it had originally been the place where pilgrims left their shoes to walk the last mile into town barefoot. From the print of the ancient seal, a new copy of the famous statue was made and installed in the Slipper Chapel, and pilgrimages recommenced.

These days, everyone has a stake in Walsingham. High Anglicans rebuilt the Holy House inside a new church and installed another statue: the abbey ruins were opened to the public and, gradually, the site reawakened. The Slipper Chapel became too small to take the numbers of Catholics flocking there, and in 1982 a new

church, a lofty building whose sweeping lines are taken from the design of old Norfolk barns, rose from the adjoining fields. There is also a rather splendid Methodist church where Wesley once preached, and the Sun Ryder foundation runs a hotel, a tea-room and a tiny hermitage. Religious souvenir shops abound.

In the Common Place is a well, sometimes grandly called the Conduit House.

It is a hilarious little blob made of old

bricks, chunks of limestone and sprouting grasses.

On top of it is a mini-brazier where

bonfires are lit to mark important events:

they used to be a smart final, but that

collapsed in 1900, under the weight of the

bunting tied to it in celebration of the

relic of Mafeking. This is the place where

the Walsingham Witnesses tend to gather,

to jeer at any evidence of the idolatry they

despise, an atavistic dissenting pastime that

is hard to imagine elsewhere.

At the Black Lion, a pub which once

gave a bed to Philippa of Hainault, the wife

of Edward III and friend of Chaucer, the

wife was of spring. You can tell when it's

arrived because the Easter pilgrims

descend upon the town - young men carrying

crosses. A sturdy farmer in a knitted cap was sitting at the bar, his upper lip

adorned by the kind of long and lugubrious

blood moustache that his Viking ancestors

probably wore. He told us that there was

not a single family in the village which didn't benefit in some way from the increasing popularity of the place. But he grumbled, too, about the fact that parking restrictions were back in force now that the pilgrimage season had started, and that the village looked terrible with double yellow lines all down the street. Aumble of assent greeted this remark. How long bad they been there? Oh, some years - couldn't say exactly. We'd have to ask Basil.

We'd already heard quite a bit about Basil. He was so old, they said, that he'd probably been there when Richeldis saw her vision. There was nothing he didn't know about the place; we could ask him anything. He'd probably turn up, in a minute or two.

Basil didn't show up, and we had to go. The lane out of the town lies deep between hedges; on that quiet sunny morning, celandines and primroses brought a golden sheen to the bright new grass, giving the countryside the look of an illuminated manuscript. We reached Wells and turned westward. Here a forest of gnarled and twisted oaks called Abraham's Bosom protects the land from the encroaching sea. This was planted hundreds of years ago, some time during the last great heyday of Walsingham, but I'm not sure of the exact date. Next time, I must remember to ask Basil.

GREEN CHANNEL

If you're into habitat and wildlife conservation, and have always wanted to go on a field trip, but need technical guidance, he is at hand. The Royal Geographical Society's expeditionary advisory centre is organising workshops from 20-25 April that will introduce you to the golden rules of research on conservation experiments world-wide.

The workshops are led by scientists from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the National History Museum, Birdlife International, Fauna and Flora International, Harrison Zoological Museum and the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester. You can learn how to assess endangered habitats, or how to survey wildlife, from the tiniest insects to the largest mammals.

Workshops in wildlife sound-recording and film-making are also being held.

If funding an expedition seems out of your league, you may be able to get help from the BP conservation programme. This week it will award £61,000 to 14 student research projects from around the world. Winners include a joint project between the University of East Anglia and the National Museum of Kenya to survey the Mount Kasigau forest - a precious habitat for endangered birds.

Another is a joint project between Ecuador, Britain and Australian researchers, which will undertake zoological and environmental impact research in the Podocarpus National Park and the Rio Nangaritza Valley in Ecuador.

Students in full or part-time education from anywhere in the world can submit proposals on conservation initiatives for next year's awards. But travellers do need more than a passing penchant for wildlife. The programme demands high standards of scientific research, projects must address a globally threatened species or habitat and the researcher must work closely with local communities.

For details of workshops contact Louise Every at the Royal Geographical Society (0171-591 3030; e-mail: eac@rgs.org). For information on applying to the BP Conservation Awards, contact Birdlife International (01233 273 318); e-mail: bp-conservation-program@birdlife.org.uk. Sue Wheat

RED CHANNEL

US State Department advice on travel in Turkey

For years, urban and rural acts of terrorism throughout Turkey have caused loss of life and injury to government officials, civilians and some foreign tourists. While most incidents have occurred in eastern Turkey, one terrorist group, the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) claims to target tourist sites and tourist-oriented facilities in western Turkey as well, in an effort to inflict economic harm on the country.

In 1994, PKK bomb attacks at some of Istanbul's most popular tourist attractions, including St Sophia and the covered bazaar, resulted in the death of two foreign tourists. In August 1995, several bombings in Istanbul resulted in two deaths and 36 injuries. Due to PKK bombings on local inter-city buses, travellers may be subject to security baggage-screening by the Turkish National Police.

Terrorist acts by the PKK continue throughout the eastern provinces. These attacks are against not only Turkish police and military installations, but also civilian targets, including public ground transport. Most attacks have been at night, but daytime incidents do occur. The PKK has kidnapped foreigners in eastern Turkey to generate media attention for their separatist cause. A number of foreigners, including Americans, have been held by the PKK and eventually released. In 1995, Mount Ararat was declared a special military zone; access is now prohibited.

The following provinces in the south-eastern part of the country have been under a state of emergency since 1978: Van, Hakkari, Siirt, Bitlis, Tunceli, Diyarbakir, Silifke and Bingol. The provinces of Elazig, Mus and Mardin are considered "sensitive areas", and are designated one level below "state of emergency" status.

Travellers are cautioned not to accept letters, parcels or other items from strangers for delivery to the above areas. The same advice applies to requests to take items from those areas. There are indications that the PKK terrorist group has attempted to use foreigners for this purpose. If discovered, individuals could be arrested for aiding and abetting the PKK - a serious charge.

DISCOVER THE WIDE OPEN SPACES IN A VOLVO V40.

We've bent over backwards to give you more room.

Even the front passenger seat folds flat.

The Volvo V40.

From £18,155 to £24,855.

Call for a free copy of the Volvo S40 and V40 video (quoting ref: G4).

0800 100 140

VOLVO. A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.

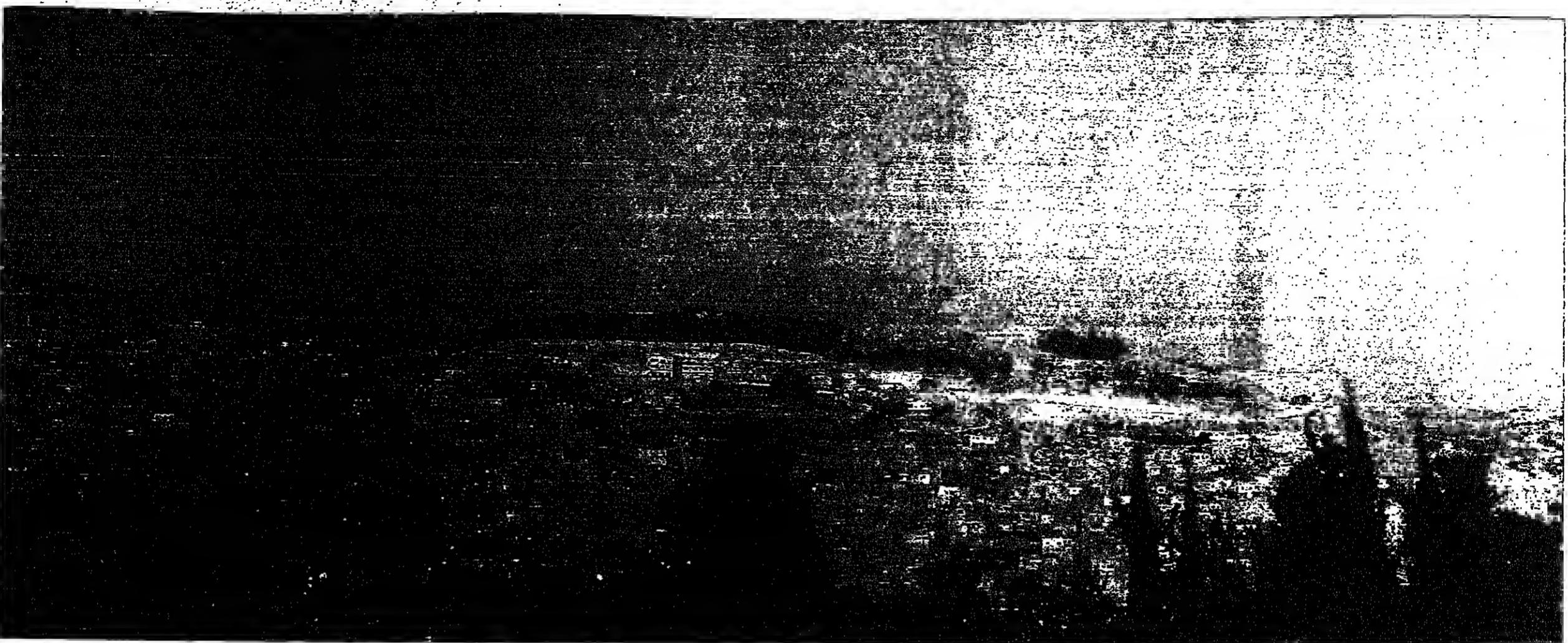
مكتابات العمل



VOLVO

V40

• 48 hours in Jerusalem



For a crash course in monotheism – or just for a fascinating and sybaritic weekend exploring the cradle of Western culture, make for the Holy City, writes Alex Brodie

Why go now?

Easter is, of course, the time when the Christian faithful flock to the Holy City. And at this time of year in Jerusalem the weather can be perfect.

Beam down

El Al (0171-957 4100) flies scheduled from Heathrow and Stansted to Tel Aviv. British Airways (0345 222111) has services from Gatwick and Heathrow. Charter flights from London and Manchester to Tel Aviv and Eilat are widely available for around £200, through agents such as Pullman Holidays (0171-630 5111).

From *Bent Gaton* airport outside Tel Aviv, there are regular buses and shared taxis which take about an hour to reach Jerusalem.

Get your bearings

Jerusalem's streets are not based on logic. Nor, it seems, do they bear close relation to the maps available. But basically it's a divided city – east is Arab, west is Jewish, though Jewish settlement-building has somewhat blurred that. The Old City is walled, and divided into quarters by religion – Jewish, Muslim, Armenian. Outside it and running down to it (more or less) are the main streets in Jewish west Jerusalem – Jaffa Road – and in Arab east Jerusalem – Salah-u-din street. It is easy to get lost.

Check in

Just in east Jerusalem is the legendary American Colony Hotel (00 972 2 628 5171). It has nothing to do with America. It is English-owned, Swiss managed and Palestinian staffed. It was a *pasha's* palace, has a delightful courtyard and garden, and is the place to stay.

A cheaper alternative – with character – is the YMCA (00 972 2 625 711) in west Jerusalem, opposite the King David Hotel. (There's a Y in the east, too.) This has a good restaurant, and the terrace is a calm place in an often frenetic city.

Take in a view

Jerusalem is an intensely complex city, in its geography, politics, demography, religions and history. If you've just arrived, it can be difficult to get the measure of the place. There are two places to go at the start which will make the rest of what you see easier to understand.

Head for the Haas Promenade on the edge of West Jerusalem. It's a 10- or 15-minute taxi ride from the centre. You take the Bethlehem Road south and turn left. Suddenly all is laid out before you. You are looking across to the Old City – the golden dome of the Dome of the Rock may be shining in the sun. On your left is the modern capital of Israel. On the right is Arab east Jerusalem. On the hills around are the blocks of housing – the settlements the Israelis have built



Holy City: Jerusalem's skyline, top; at the Mount of Olives, left. Photographs: Richard Ekins/Liaison (top) & E Simer (above)

since 1967, to surround the city and consolidate their hold on it. Modern, recent and ancient history and legend are laid out before you. Pore over your map. Look at the names. The Bible story is out there.

In front of you and to the right of the old city is the Mount of Olives. Go there for a closer overview of the Old City and the Dome, with the new city behind. On the way stop on the ridge outside the Hebrew University and look west over the city and east to the desert, the Jordan valley and the hills of Jordan.

Take a walk

Time to plunge into the Old City. To get the full impact of this remarkable place, and made it, go to the three shrines of the three religions which have competed, and still do, for Jerusalem. They're all within a very short walk of each other.

The Western Wall (please don't call it the "Wailing" wall), Judaism's holiest shrine, is all that remains of the Temple of

Solomon. Above, on the site of that temple, is Islam's third holiest site (after Mecca and Medina) the Haram-al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary) which contains Al Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock. A few hundred yards away is Christianity's shrine, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on what is reputed to be the site of Christ's crucifixion and burial.

Marvel at how close they all are, and how this really is the crucible of monotheistic religious faith (and intolerance). Bear in mind that the rivalry is within the faiths, not just between them. As you walk around the Church of the Holy Sepulchre you will pass through the areas possessed by six branches of Christianity: the Latin Catholics, the Greek Orthodox, the Armenians, the Syrians, the Copts and the Ethiopians (presumably the last in, as they ended up on the roof). Each jealousy guards its territory. And at busy times – such as Easter – these men of God have been known to thump each other, and the

temporal power, currently Israel, has had to send in riot police to separate them. To do all three holy sites, you need to start early, because tourists are allowed on to the Haram-al-Sharif only during the morning.

Lunch on the run

There are many cafés in the Old City. For the best coffee, look for the ones inhabited by locals in the Muslim quarter. Follow your nose for barbecueing kebabs. Here, or in the Jewish quarter, seek out the hummus that looks as if it's made on the premises, with whole chick peas and tahina.

Window shopping

Palestinian pottery is a good buy – the little bowls and vases make excellent presents. To get the best hand-painted stuff go to the pottery outside the Old City, opposite the East Jerusalem YMCA near St George's Cathedral. Pottery in more modern design is made by an Armenian potter called Hagop. Go to the Armenian quarter of the Old City, near the Patriarchate, and ask for him.

An aperitif

Finks is an eccentric little bar in West Jerusalem, on a street corner near the top of the Ben Yehudat pedestrian mall. Before the – surprisingly recent – explosion of drinking places in west Jerusalem, Finks was the only real bar. It's a piece of central Europe in the Middle East – and if the weather's cold, you can warm up there with their goulash soup. In east Jerusalem, go to the American Colony Hotel. In winter, try the cellar bar; in summer, make for the bar in the garden. Both alternatives are under the guidance of Ibrahim, a prince among bartenders – a teetotaller who understands drink. The American Colony is a

place for appreciative individual travellers, and is not cheap.

Dinner

Go to either of the above, or, for wonderful fresh fish brought up daily from the coast, make for Ocean next to Beit Agron in west Jerusalem. It's expensive, Kebabs and Arabic *muzza* are good at East Jerusalem's Az Zahra Hotel. There's a terrace if it's hot, and even an open fire inside.

Sunday morning: go to church

Jerusalem is a very rich diet. After the extravagances of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, you may appreciate a simple, impressive and rather more spiritual place. This is the 12th-century St Anne's Church, built by the Crusaders. It's just inside St Stephen's gate in the Muslim quarter of the Old City.

A note of caution

Remember, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict persists and Jerusalem is a bitterly divided city. Tourists have, by and large, not been targeted, but violence is always likely.

The icing on the cake

Birds. In spring Israel is one of the most crowded routes in the world for birds flying between Africa and northern Europe. The best chance of seeing flocks is on the coastal plain on the way to and from the airport, and in the Jordan valley (half an hour from Jerusalem). Down there, watch the phone wires by the road for bus-eaters, which are seen as a glorious splash of bright greens and blues.

Alex Brodie is a presenter on Radio 4 and the BBC World Service, and a former Middle East Correspondent of the BBC

Two wings and a prayer ...

Harriet O'Brien joined some white-knuckled passengers facing phobia on a Virgin Atlantic non-flight

First off was a session with Norman Lees, one of Virgin's pilots, who heroically (and with an air of missionary zeal) undertook the job of explaining the basics about aerodynamics and the construction of an aeroplane – all within about two hours.

Whoops, you might think, stodgy stuff. In fact this turned out to be gently reassuring: we learnt why it is that a wing *couldn't* ever just fall off a plane, how 350-plus tons of aircraft actually get off the ground, and how why aircraft bank (the tilt is never more than 30 degrees, even if you feel as if you've suddenly and involuntarily joined the Red Arrows). And above all we learnt, repeatedly, about the built-in redundancy factor of the average 747 (as flown by Virgin) – four hydraulics systems where only one is really needed, two methods of getting the landing-gear down when only one is necessary, four engines although the plane *could* get by with one, two pilots ...

Most reassuring of all was being played a tape of engine noises, with accompanying explanations the level of noise just before take-off, the unnerving thunk as the wheels are retracted and the undercarriage doors close: the sudden change in volume as engine power is reduced.

Commonly held and deeply rooted fears were also put to rest – "No amount of turbulence on this planet can cause an aircraft to break up," said Captain Lees firmly. And as for total engine failure, this is now extremely unlikely: "The only measure – keeping pressure and apprehension of participants. It also, they explained, enabled groups to be kept small (unlike other courses) so that all questions and all anxieties had a chance of being aired."

And there lay the paradox: the day's fear-busting did not include a flight itself (unlike similar courses held by several other airlines). The Virgin staff were keen to stress that this was *designed* – keeping pressure and apprehension of participants. It also, they explained, enabled groups to be kept small (unlike other courses) so that all questions and all anxieties had a chance of being aired.

So how were they going to be convincing without presenting us with the final challenge?

It was doubtless without any intended irony that chicken was on the menu for lunch. This was served in full airline packaging in an impressively realistic mock-up of an aircraft cabin – and contrary to my own flights of fantasy we really did eat lunch at lunch time, rather than a set of improbable meals at impossible times of the day.

Having dealt with the hard mechanics of flight, the afternoon was spent exploring the more touchy-feely mechanics of the mind. David Landau, an eminent psychoanalyst and Einstein lookalike with a velvet voice, dwelt on such notions as being in control and the need to get in touch "with the frightened child within". We were talked through methods of relaxation – and put this to the test back in the simulated cabin. Then, once we had been handed a party bag (complete with a relaxation tape) our course was over.

Had it worked? For my part, I certainly feel much happier about the prospect of air travel. And the others?

"Great," said one participant. "It was especially helpful getting hard facts from the pilot. I wasn't quite so convinced about all that mind stuff."

"Not really," said another, looking strained and tearful. "I still don't feel very positive."

"Well," said a third. "I wouldn't have come if we'd had to fly at the end – I'd have imagined that I couldn't have coped. Now I think I'd be prepared to give it a go."

For details of the next Virgin Atlantic course, which costs £99, call 01293 746664.

Several other airlines operate programmes for *fearful flyers*, all of which culminate in a "flight to nowhere". Britannia Airways (01582 424155) stages two courses a year at its East Midlands training centre; the next is on 18 April. The day includes a visit to the mock-up cabin used for training crews. The price is £130. A British Airways pilot, Captain Peter Hughes, holds regular courses. The next is at Heathrow on 18 April (£179), with another a week later in Manchester (£149). For bookings, call 0161-832 7972. Air 2000 also runs fear-of-flying courses; call 0161-745 4644 for details.

A train

The best international rail deal from Britain is the £77 ticket from London Waterloo to any station in Holland, through Eurostar (0345 303030). The bargains get even better once you're there: the price for a day-return ticket anywhere in Holland flattens out after 210km (130 miles), which means

you can go anywhere you like and back for 67.50 guilders – about £20. So you could travel from Amsterdam to Maastricht or from The Hague to Groningen, on fast, regular and reliable trains, for little more than a round trip on the Gatwick Express.

A boat

A new, fast ferry starts running next month, saving travellers hours on a trip to France. P&O (0990 980980) is launching the Superstar Express from Portsmouth to Cherbourg, almost halving the existing five-hour crossing time by conventional vessels.

A plane

In the next couple of months, a range of unusual destinations will be introduced by Ryanair (0541 569569) from Stansted; Kristianstad in southern Sweden (from £109 return); Carcassonne in southern France (£119); and St Etienne near Lyon (£119). In Italy, the airline plans to serve Pisa, Rimini and Venice.

A room

As the trend to yet-more-automated lighthouses continues, you can stay in one of the most beautifully located in the British Isles. The Wicklow Lighthouse on the east coast of Ireland costs £480 per week until June; contact the Irish Landmark Trust (00 353 1 662 8425). For the Campex '98 outdoor show will be clearing up at Kempston Park racecourse, south west of London. A range of outdoor clothing and equipment companies will be on show from 8 to 10 May. For more information, call Nomad on (0181) 834 7014.

A meal

A Missie Lee supper is one of a range of activities organised by the Arthur Ransome Society, based in Cumbria (c/o Anhol Hall Gallery, Kendal LA9 4QT). There are also expeditions in search of Swallowdale, wherry trips on the Norfolk Broads and camping trips to Chichester Harbour.

A week from now ...

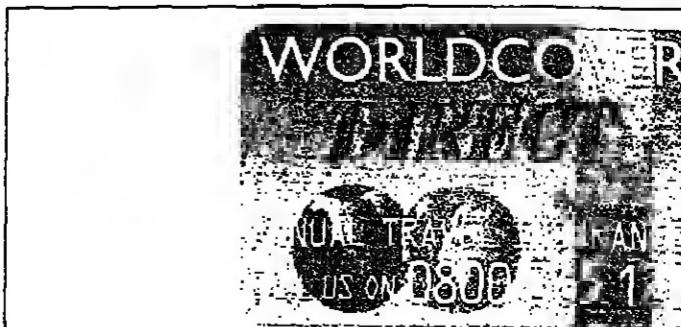
... you will be able to insure yourself at one of the 250 largest branches of Boots. Travel cover will cost £14 for a single person spending up to eight days in Europe, and £35 for a family for a month's travel worldwide.

A month from now ...

... the Campex '98 outdoor show will be clearing up at Kempston Park racecourse, south west of London. A range of outdoor clothing and equipment companies will be on show from 8 to 10 May. For more information, call Nomad on (0181) 834 7014.

A year from now ...

... the cruise ship *Trovita* will be sailing around the Caribbean and the Panama Canal. This 10-day P&O Cruise (0171-891 2222) begins and ends in Barbados.



A vine romance

For wine lovers, Bordeaux is synonymous with tradition. But some Bordelais have their eyes on the future, writes Margaret Kemp

In the world of wine, Bordeaux is nobility. When Eleanor of Aquitaine married King Henry Plantagenet in 1152, the region became the main British foothold for a three-century Aquitanian adventure. It was to the English, and their taste for Bordeaux claret, that the area owed its first economic boom. The second upswing, which financed the building of the elegant city centre, came with the 18th-century colonial trade. Today, from gently undulating limestone hills, sand and gravel, come more than 500 million bottles of red, white and rosé wine every year.

An aura of old money, call it 18th-century elegance, permeates downtown Bordeaux. The excellent Musée d'Aquitaine (free admission on Wednesdays) gives a great insight into the city and its history. The wine trade section is certainly worth a visit, before you set out on a vineyard tour.

But, beforehand, visit the Saint-Michel market. Here you'll discover an abundance of local products: Gironde eavare, basin oysters, tender baby eels, lampreys, ceps, wood pigeons, *fricé gris*, fruit and nuts, tender Bassa beef and Pauillac lamb. Don't miss the macaroons from Saint Emilion, and stock up with *cannelle* cakes.

Before rushing off to Mouton Rothschild, Haut-Brion, Lafite or Latour, take in the colours and perfume of the tiny islands that surround the Gironde estuary. Close by the opulence of the châteaux of the *grands crus*, the Gironde rolls on as it has done for 20 centuries. From the comfort of a motor launch, see the fishermen's paradise at Bordeaux: I want Haut Selve to mark the millennium, to be a reference for the end of the 20th century."

To placate the neighbours, M Lesgourges recently held an open day. "Yes, they did warm to the idea, especially after they tasted the wine," he reports.

"But we still had the impression that they would be happier drinking something from a more conventional vineyard."

Stay at gîtes such as Château Vieux Braneyre,

where Philip and Jean-Christophe Guigues will welcome you into their home (only five guest-rooms). Prefer something more comfortable? Just outside Saint Emilion in the heart of the vineyards.

Friedrich Gross has transformed the turreted medieval Château Grand Barrail into a luxury hotel. And,

yes, of course there's a helicopter landing-pad. Want to buy wine but don't know where to begin? It's a great advantage to buy direct from the château (often you can expect to pay half the price you would in shops); taste before you do so, and get some extra advice. The language barrier is no problem at Château de Sours, owned by an ex-Harrovian and his wife. The 17th-century mansion of Esme and Sara Johnstone has 27 hectares of vines and is definitely the only vineyard in the world with its own cricket pitch. "We've tried to teach the locals, but

they're not much good," laughs Mr Johnstone. Meanwhile, for the first time in more than 100 years, a new vineyard has been created in Bordeaux. In the Graves region, bordering the ruins of Château Razens, the winemaker Jean-Jacques Lesgourges has constructed Haut Selve, totally new kind of château. "In building Bordeaux's first and last vineyard of this century I wanted to create something outstanding," he says. M Lesgourges produces excellent armagnac at Domaines de Laubade and is proprietor of Château Cadillac. During the summer he turns over his château to art students.

For his 30m-franc project, M Lesgourges commissioned the Bordeaux-born architect Sylvain Dubuisson to design his state-of-the-art château/winery. Built from prefabricated panels of polished cement, in 100 different configurations, the low-slung horizontal structure seems to disappear into the vines. The open zinc roof is in complete contrast to the closed feeling of the building. Lofty bronze statues guard the entrance. As you arrive at the *domaine*, imposing wrought-iron gates by the sculptor Vincent Barre open automatically. A dramatic panorama of 68 hectares of vines, punctuated by striking pieces of modern art, stretches as far as the eye can see. Disgruntled locals protested that it was little more than a wine factory.

"But they're missing the whole point," sighs M Lesgourges. "Dubuisson came up with a concept that I found poetic, historic and scientific. Why build another traditional château in Bordeaux? I want Haut Selve to mark the millennium, to be a reference for the end of the 20th century."

To placate the neighbours, M Lesgourges recently held an open day. "Yes, they did warm to the idea, especially after they tasted the wine," he reports.

"But we still had the impression that they would be happier drinking something from a more conventional vineyard."

One of the visitors that day was Jean-Marie Amat, owner of the nearby, Michelin-starred Restaurant Saint-James. No stranger to controversy, M Amat constructed the wacky Hôtel Saint-James, which adjoins his riverside restaurant. Eighteen slick suites contain unconventional surprises. A gleaming Harley-Davidson motorbike in one, a rooftop-suite Jacuzzi in another. M Amat, who is passionate about modern design, collaborated with the architect Jean Nouvel, the Institute du Monde Arabe and Fondation Cartier, Paris. "Like me, Lesgourges must have confidence in the future. How else can we

progress?" asks M Amat. "Lesgourges has done something fantastic; his wines, although young, are very drinkable. Technically, we must wait for six or seven years to see whether they are really great."

M Lesgourges is cool. "I have no competition," he shrugs. "Our wine has no image to live up to, yet."

How to get there: Eurostar (0345 303030); trains from London Waterloo to Gare du Nord start at £69 return. There are connections onwards to Bordeaux for £109 for a return ticket from London.

Book a vineyard visit: Château Haut Selve, Bordeaux (00 33 5 56 00 25); Château Smith Haut Lafitte, 33650 Marillac (00 33 55 83 11 22); Château de Sours, 33730 Saint-Quentin-de-Baron (00 33 5 57 19 26); Château Cos d'Estournel, 33180 Saint Estèphe (00 33 5 56 73 15 50).

Where to stay: Jean Marie Amat's Saint-James Restaurant-Hôtel, 3 place Camille Hostein, 33270 Blanquefort (00 33 5 57 97 06 00); Château Grand Barrail, 33330 Saint-Genès (call Small Luxury Hotels, free-phone 0800 964470); Château Vieux Braneyre Gîte 00 33 5 56 59 58 04.

Where to eat: Gravelier, 114 cours de Verdun (00 33 5 56 48 17 15).

More information: French Travel Centre, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL (0891 244123); Bordeaux Office de Tourisme 00 33 5 56 00 66 00

progress?" asks M Amat. "Lesgourges has done something fantastic; his wines, although young, are very drinkable. Technically, we must wait for six or seven years to see whether they are really great."

M Lesgourges is cool. "I have no competition," he shrugs. "Our wine has no image to live up to, yet."

How to get there: Eurostar (0345 303030); trains from London Waterloo to Gare du Nord start at £69 return. There are connections onwards to Bordeaux for £109 for a return ticket from London.

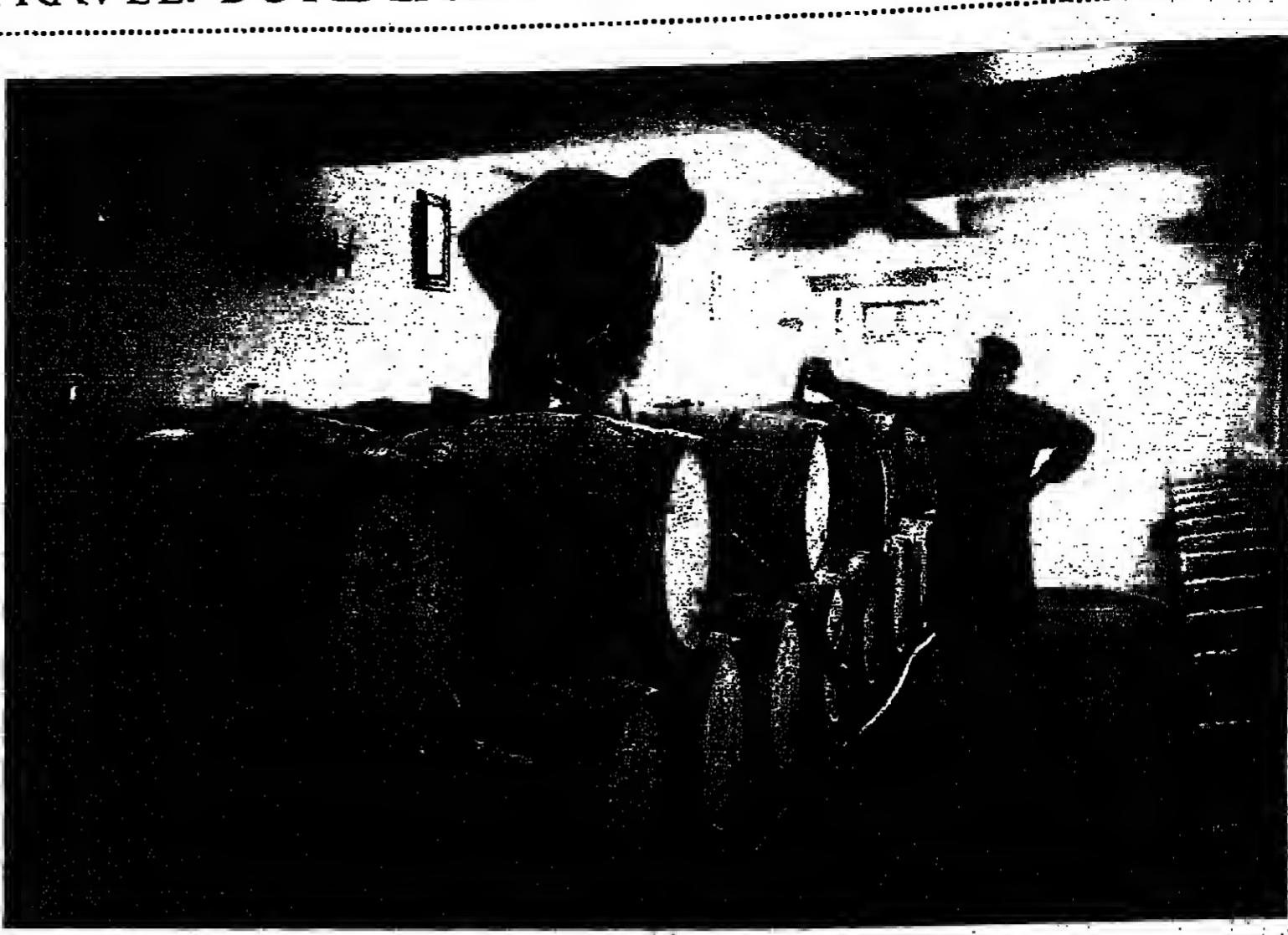
Book a vineyard visit: Château Haut Selve, Bordeaux (00 33 5 56 00 25); Château Smith Haut Lafitte, 33650 Marillac (00 33 55 83 11 22); Château de Sours, 33730 Saint-Quentin-de-Baron (00 33 5 57 19 26); Château Cos d'Estournel, 33180 Saint Estèphe (00 33 5 56 73 15 50).

Where to stay: Jean Marie Amat's Saint-James Restaurant-Hôtel, 3 place Camille Hostein, 33270 Blanquefort (00 33 5 57 97 06 00); Château Grand Barrail, 33330 Saint-Genès (call Small Luxury Hotels, free-phone 0800 964470); Château Vieux Braneyre Gîte 00 33 5 56 59 58 04.

Where to eat: Gravelier, 114 cours de Verdun (00 33 5 56 48 17 15).

More information: French Travel Centre, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL (0891 244123); Bordeaux Office de Tourisme 00 33 5 56 00 66 00

Grape expectations while New World wines rely on hi-tech methods, tradition lives on in Bordeaux.
Photograph: David Rose



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Bordeaux's illustrious history of wine production extends back to the Middle Ages. In the 12th century, Richard Coeur de Lion used Bordeaux's wines for his household. His brother, King John, introduced the region's wine merchants to the English during his reign.

The English connection continued to bolster Bordeaux's status when Samuel Pepys, the English diarist, drank some claret in a café called Pontack in 1663. He described the beverage as having a "good and most peculiar taste".

Fifteen years later, John Locke visited Bordeaux and was astounded by its fecundity, although, as he wrote: "Pontac, so much esteemed in England, grows on a rise of ground, openmost to the west; in pine white sand, mixed with a little gravel. One would imagine it scarce fit to bear anything."

But bear great things it did, and by the following century was favoured by America's élite. In 1787, Thomas

Jefferson purchased a couple of fruity fiddle numbers – a 1784 Château d'Yquem and a Château Margaux – which he described as "indeed dear". The man who became the third president of the United States knew his wines; in 1865 both were included in Bordeaux's top five. But he may have been shocked to discover quite how dear they would become. In 1986 the bottle of Yquem fetched \$56,000 at auction and the following year the Margaux was bought for \$30,000: it was, of course, only a half-bottle.

Bordeaux's reputation has carried it a long way. The famous châteaux of the region have no need to entice passers-by with slick tourist packages and information centres; bulk orders account for 99 per cent of sales, and in recent years, sales to the Far East have sky-rocketed. But for how much longer can this continue?

Adrian Morrison

TEL: 0171 293 2222

THE INDEPENDENT

Fill your holiday cottage, villa or apartment vacancies.



Last year over a quarter of a million Independent and Independent On Sunday readers stayed on holiday in a rented villa, flat or cottage.

For only £4.70 per line or £8.22 per line if both Saturday and Sunday are booked (inc VAT), you can advertise your holiday home vacancies throughout the year. Your advertisement will appear in the Time Off section of The Independent on Saturday and/or the Travel Supplement of the Independent on Sunday.

TO BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENT

Either call The Travel Team on 0171 293 2219
Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm,
or e-mail us at mihull@independent.co.uk
or fax us on 0171 293 3156

or complete and return the coupon below to:

The Travel Team, Classified Advertising,
The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL
and include your payment by cheque
or Access/Visa/American Express/Diners Card

N.B. PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY (TWO PROPERTIES OR LESS)

INSERTION DATES:
CLASSIFICATION:
I enclose a cheque for £_____
made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc
or debit my Access/Visa/American Express account by £_____

CARD NO.: _____ EXPIRY DATE: _____

YOUR DETAILS:
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

TEL NO: Day: _____ Evening: _____

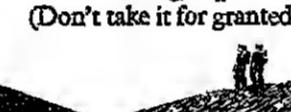
SIGNATURE: _____

For further details
please call The Travel Team on 0171 293 2219

INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

Activity Holidays

Breathing Space (Don't take it for granted)



We don't... Help us keep Britain's breathing space open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.

For over 60 years, The Ramblers' lobbying and vigilance has been achieving and helping rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside.

Take a walk. Take a breather; consider the future. Invest in The Ramblers.

The Ramblers

Working for walkers

1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX.

Ramblers Charitable Trust

0171 580 0009

SUFFOLK CYCLE BREAKS. Cyclists' holidays for 1-2 weeks or longer. Brochures 01449 721565.

HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE HOLIDAYS. Learn to Ride, Trail Rides, Horse Drawn Carriages, etc. Call 01422 830663.

CHILDREN CHALLENGED AT MILLS. On the Blue, Smales, Learn archery, climbing, abseiling, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS. Wildlife, Survival, Dry Stone Walling, Woods, Waterfalls, etc. Call 01422 830663.

WALKING & CYCLING HOLIDAYS

Where to revel in Ottoman splendour

Budget travel? Forget it – when in Istanbul, live like a sultan, writes Nicole Pope

Istanbul long had the reputation of being a destination for penniless travellers. In the Seventies, no self-respecting backpacker on the hippy trail to India would have failed to stop for a cheap meal at the legendary Pudding Shop on Sultanahmet Square. But Istanbul is also the city of Ottoman splendour, the ancient capital where sultans lived in such luxury that they were the envy of many European rulers. Today, despite the heavy traffic, despite the constant buzz of modern life in this city of 10 million, it is still possible to rediscover palatial life and recapture some of Istanbul's historic atmosphere. Do stop at the Pudding Shop, by all means, for decent food at a more than reasonable price: the old flea-pits still exist, mainly patronised by suitcase traders from the former Eastern block, but you should settle instead in style in one of the beautifully renovated hotels that now define the Istanbul experience.

The most unusual, and the most expensive, establishment has to be the Four Seasons Hotel. Wedged between Topkapi Palace and Hagia Sophia and beautifully combining traditional Ottoman furnishing with all the latest luxuries, it is located in a grand Ottoman building used as a prison until the Seventies. The poet Nazim Hikmet and the novelist Yasir Kemal, as well as other famous dissident intellectuals, were among the "guests". Several former inmates revisited the grounds when the hotel first opened and were startled by the spectacular change of decor.

More modestly priced, but also in the heart of the old city and leaning against the perimeter wall of Topkapi, are the Ayasofya Pensions – an entire street of small wooden houses painted in cheerful pastel colours and transformed by the

Touring Club of Turkey, which pioneered the renovation of derelict Ottoman houses for the use of tourists. Others in that style include several small Ottoman *konaks* renovated in recent years and offering intimacy and a glimpse of the old life. The tiny Ibrahim Pasha Hotel, with its 19 rooms, is a successful example of such conversion. The Yesil Ev Hotel also boasts an attractive shaded garden, a welcome spot to rest after an afternoon spent visiting the historic sites.

If you don't fancy being woken up by the call to prayer echoing from the mosques on Sultanahmet Square, you may prefer the banks of the Bosphorus, the famous straits that separate Europe from Asia. Nestled almost under the majestic Bosphorus suspension bridge, the Ciragan Palace Hotel, part of the Kempinski chain, combines modern and old. The hotel section, which offers spacious

rooms with a stunning view over the water, is new but the building next door was a genuine Ottoman palace before fire largely destroyed it in 1910.

When it comes to good food, you're in for a treat. Among the restaurants located in the rather garishly redone Ciragan Palace is the Tugra restaurant, which offers real Ottoman food. Turks are rightly proud of their cuisine, always cooked with the freshest ingredients and

delicate olive oil. Next to the splendid basilica of Saint-Saviour-in-Chora, Aslanane, located in the Kerke Hotel, prepares unusual Ottoman recipes adapted to modern tastes with great creativity. Over the North gate of the Spice Bazaar is Pandeli's, with its delicious speciality of fish baked in paper.

For unique atmosphere, the Sarni (Cistern) restaurant, next to the Ayasofya Pensions, is unbeatable: the food may be fairly ordinary, the service a bit stodgy at times, but in the flickering candlelight, the deep cathedral-like Byzantine cistern, furnished with massive wooden tables and heavy wrought-iron chandeliers, provides a truly amazing setting.

Sultans used to be taken across the Bosphorus in caïques, the long narrow rowing boats that can still be seen in the naval museum. You can – almost – replicate the experience by taking the small boat that ferries diners across the straits for a meal at Kirfez. This upmarket fish restaurant is justly famous for its sea-hass cooked in salt, and the romantic journey at night across the dark water only adds to the attraction. Closer to land is Liman restaurant, which offers white-table service overlooking a busy quayside about 200 yards north of the Galata Bridge over the Golden Horn.

If you have exhausted the pleasures

rooms with a stunning view over the water, is new but the building next door was a genuine Ottoman palace before fire largely destroyed it in 1910.

When it comes to good food, you're

in for a treat. Among the restaurants located in the rather garishly redone Ciragan Palace is the Tugra restaurant, which offers real Ottoman food. Turks are rightly proud of their cuisine, always cooked with the freshest ingredients and delicate olive oil. Next to the splendid basilica of Saint-Saviour-in-Chora, Aslanane, located in the Kerke Hotel, prepares unusual Ottoman recipes adapted to modern tastes with great creativity. Over the North gate of the Spice Bazaar is Pandeli's, with its delicious speciality of fish baked in paper.

For unique atmosphere, the Sarni (Cistern) restaurant, next to the Ayasofya Pensions, is unbeatable: the food may be fairly ordinary, the service a bit stodgy at times, but in the flickering candlelight, the deep cathedral-like Byzantine cistern, furnished with massive wooden tables and heavy wrought-iron chandeliers, provides a truly amazing setting.

Sultans used to be taken across the Bosphorus in caïques, the long narrow rowing boats that can still be seen in the naval museum. You can – almost – replicate the experience by taking the small boat that ferries diners across the straits for a meal at Kirfez. This upmarket fish restaurant is justly famous for its sea-hass cooked in salt, and the romantic journey at night across the dark water only adds to the attraction. Closer to land is Liman restaurant, which offers white-table service overlooking a busy quayside about 200 yards north of the Galata Bridge over the Golden Horn.

If you have exhausted the pleasures



rooms with a stunning view over the water, is new but the building next door was a genuine Ottoman palace before fire largely destroyed it in 1910.

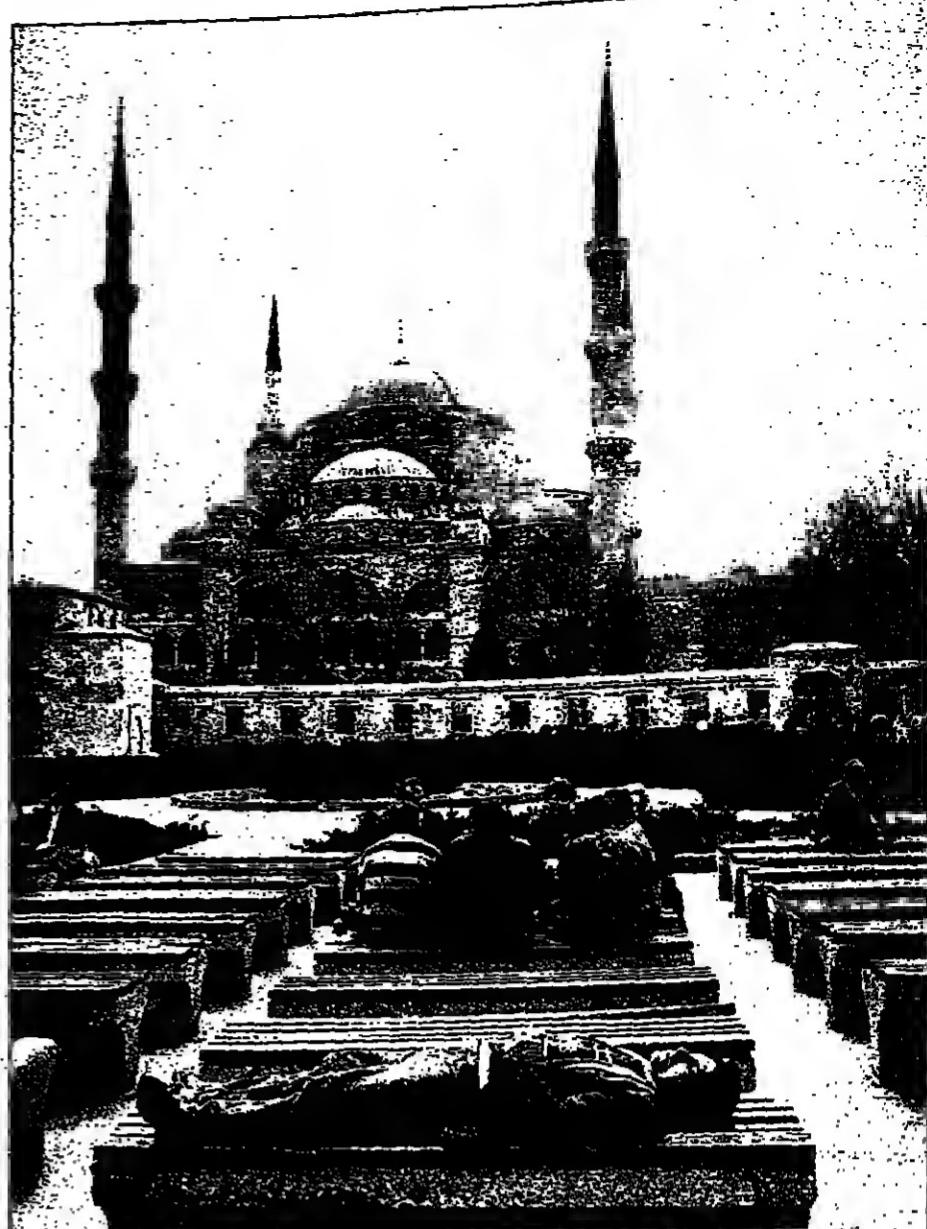
When it comes to good food, you're

in for a treat. Among the restaurants located in the rather garishly redone Ciragan Palace is the Tugra restaurant, which offers real Ottoman food. Turks are rightly proud of their cuisine, always cooked with the freshest ingredients and delicate olive oil. Next to the splendid basilica of Saint-Saviour-in-Chora, Aslanane, located in the Kerke Hotel, prepares unusual Ottoman recipes adapted to modern tastes with great creativity. Over the North gate of the Spice Bazaar is Pandeli's, with its delicious speciality of fish baked in paper.

For unique atmosphere, the Sarni (Cistern) restaurant, next to the Ayasofya Pensions, is unbeatable: the food may be fairly ordinary, the service a bit stodgy at times, but in the flickering candlelight, the deep cathedral-like Byzantine cistern, furnished with massive wooden tables and heavy wrought-iron chandeliers, provides a truly amazing setting.

Sultans used to be taken across the Bosphorus in caïques, the long narrow rowing boats that can still be seen in the naval museum. You can – almost – replicate the experience by taking the small boat that ferries diners across the straits for a meal at Kirfez. This upmarket fish restaurant is justly famous for its sea-hass cooked in salt, and the romantic journey at night across the dark water only adds to the attraction. Closer to land is Liman restaurant, which offers white-table service overlooking a busy quayside about 200 yards north of the Galata Bridge over the Golden Horn.

If you have exhausted the pleasures



Istanbul's Blue Mosque, top, and the covered market, above

Photograph: John Voos

Advice worth a million

When in Turkey, change money in small amounts – and beware bus touts and minivans of retarded comfort. Simon Calder offers a survival guide

Money

Do not change money in advance. The Turkish lira depreciates rapidly against all western European currencies – even sterling. Exchange rates in the UK rarely keep pace with the fall in value.

It is a much better plan to wait until you arrive, and then to change small amounts. You need only £3 to become a lira millionaire.

Banks keep short hours. If you can't find one open, souvenir shops and hotels will

give you reasonably competitive rates.

Getting there

Frequent scheduled flights link London Heathrow with Istanbul. A return trip on British Airways (0845 222111) or THY

Turkish Airlines (0171-499 4499) costs around £250 including UK tax of £20.

Starting in a fortnight, there will be plenty of cheaper charter flights around, too. They have the advantage of serving a wider variety of airports –

predominantly Antalya, Bodrum, Dalaman and Izmir on the Mediterranean coast. Check for late deals with a high street travel agent, or look at the advertisements on ITV Teletext.

You can expect to pay around £150 return (including tax), though cheaper last-minute bargains may be available.

To reach other places in Turkey by air, the best plan is to buy a through ticket, via Istanbul on THY. The extra cost of a connecting flight to somewhere such as Adana near the Syrian border is not much higher than the standard return fare to Istanbul.

Getting in
Because Britain levies a fee on Turkish visitors to the UK, British tourists have to pay £10 upon arrival for a visa.

Getting around
Domestic flights on THY are relatively cheap (around £25 for the Istanbul-Ankara hop, for example), but the main mode of transport is the express bus.

These are huge, air-conditioned conveyances with a courier who dispenses free soft drinks and *cum de coquie* to passengers. On main routes, buses run frequently – at least every 15 minutes on the six-hour trip between Istanbul and Ankara.

Services are run by numerous competing companies, and at some of Turkey's livelier bus

stations it is easy to be hijacked by a tout who steers you towards a particular operator; shrug off all offers of "help" and check all the ticket offices yourself before buying a ticket. Rates on long-distance runs tend to be around £1 per 100km (62 miles).

Shorter trips are operated by minibuses, usually of advanced years and retarded comfort. The name for this type of vehicle is dolmus, meaning "stuffed", which also applies to collective taxis – generally a stretched Mercedes which takes seven passengers on a good day.

Car hire is easy and relatively cheap, but roads in Turkey are dangerous if you are unused to the extravagant local styles of driving.

Rail travel has all but died out in the face of relentless competition from buses, but services on the main line east from Istanbul to Ankara and beyond have survived. See the Thomas Cook overseas timetable for details: this line is not included in the European timetable.

If you plan ahead, you need never pay for a Turkish map (unless you are biking, and need some large-scale charts). The Turkish tourist office in the United Kingdom (on the first floor of Egyptian House, 170 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DD; telephone 0171-629 7771) has an excellent range of national, regional and city maps.

THE INDEPENDENT

A 10 NIGHT SUMMER CRUISE FROM ONLY £499 TO SCOTLAND'S HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

Princess Daria Departs Dover August 23rd to Edinburgh - Aberdeen - Orkneys - Oban Isle of Lewis - Shetlands - Dundee - Harwich

INCLUDES RETURN COACH TRAVEL TO THE SHIP, ALL ON BOARD MEALS AND WONDERFUL ENTERTAINMENT PLUS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE SPECTACULAR EDINBURGH TATTOO

Princess Daria has been described as "the best kept secret in cruising" and has been exclusively chartered for this unique cruise to Scotland. Originally built for round the world cruising she boasts spacious cabins and public areas and is fully stabilised and air-conditioned. Add to this a renowned British entertainment staff and you have an exceptional floating hotel which will carry you in style to the spectacular coast of Scotland where you will call at picturesque ports and remote islands.

Prices even include port taxes and free coach travel from selected pick-up points to and from the ship, making this cruise even more convenient.

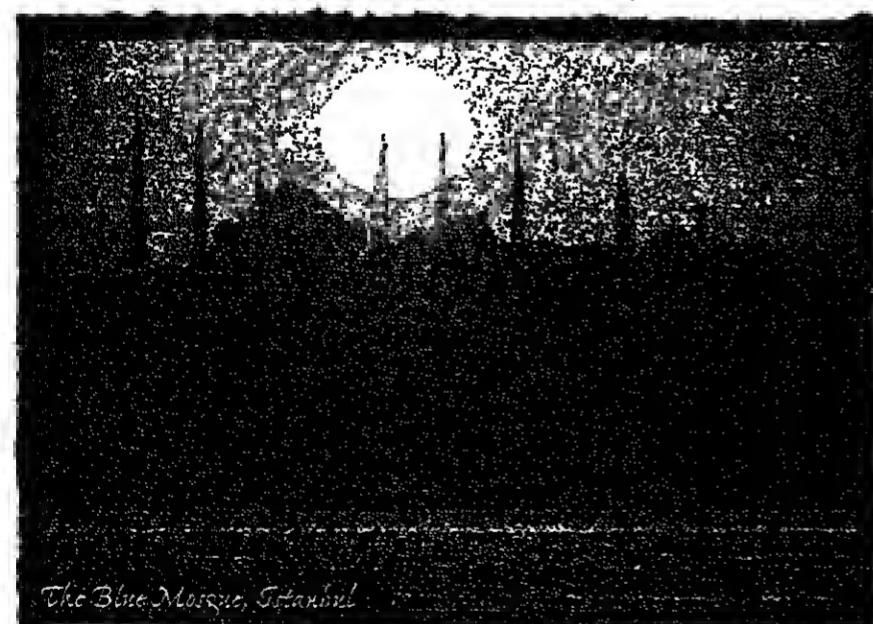
The price of £499 is per person sharing a 4 berth cabin.
2 berth cabin prices start at just £749 per person.

This holiday has been arranged in conjunction with Festive Holidays Ltd, ABTA V106X, ATOL 2172 Reg in England 1908967 Newspaper Publishing plc Reg Office 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing plc or from companies approved by Newspaper Publishing plc.

INT 338

Great stories of the past...



...only time can tell



TURKEY
A Land Unique

For information call Hello Turkey on 0891 88 77 88 (Calls charged at 50p per minute)

E-mail: info@turkish-tours.com Tel: 0171 229 2774 General enquiries to the Turkish Tourist Office on 0171 229 2774

Annual Travel Insurance From £40

All UK Weekend Breaks covered as standard

Most good annual policies cover every trip abroad. But to us, every customer deserves the best, so ours also covers every overnight UK trip – that's Preferential.

01702 423393

Open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri 10am-4pm Sat & Sun

now that's Preferential

The price of £499 is per person sharing a 4 berth cabin.
2 berth cabin prices start at just £749 per person.

This holiday has been arranged in conjunction with Festive Holidays Ltd, ABTA V106X, ATOL 2172 Reg in England 1908967 Newspaper Publishing plc Reg Office 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing plc or from companies approved by Newspaper Publishing plc.

INT 338

From the sublime to the bazaar

Pat Yale tangles with Turks off the tourist trail in Urfa, and finds herself where east meets west

Earning a living in Turkey isn't always easy, even if you're a teacher. So it was that I bumped into Ozcan Arslan, an English teacher who was supplementing his salary by moonlighting as a tour operator.

I'd come to Urfa drawn by memories of a wonderful plane-tree-shaded tea garden. But my path to the Hotel Harran strayed past the door of Ozcan's shop, and before I knew it, there I was, sitting on a kilim-covered bench, sipping tea and having my itinerary reworked.

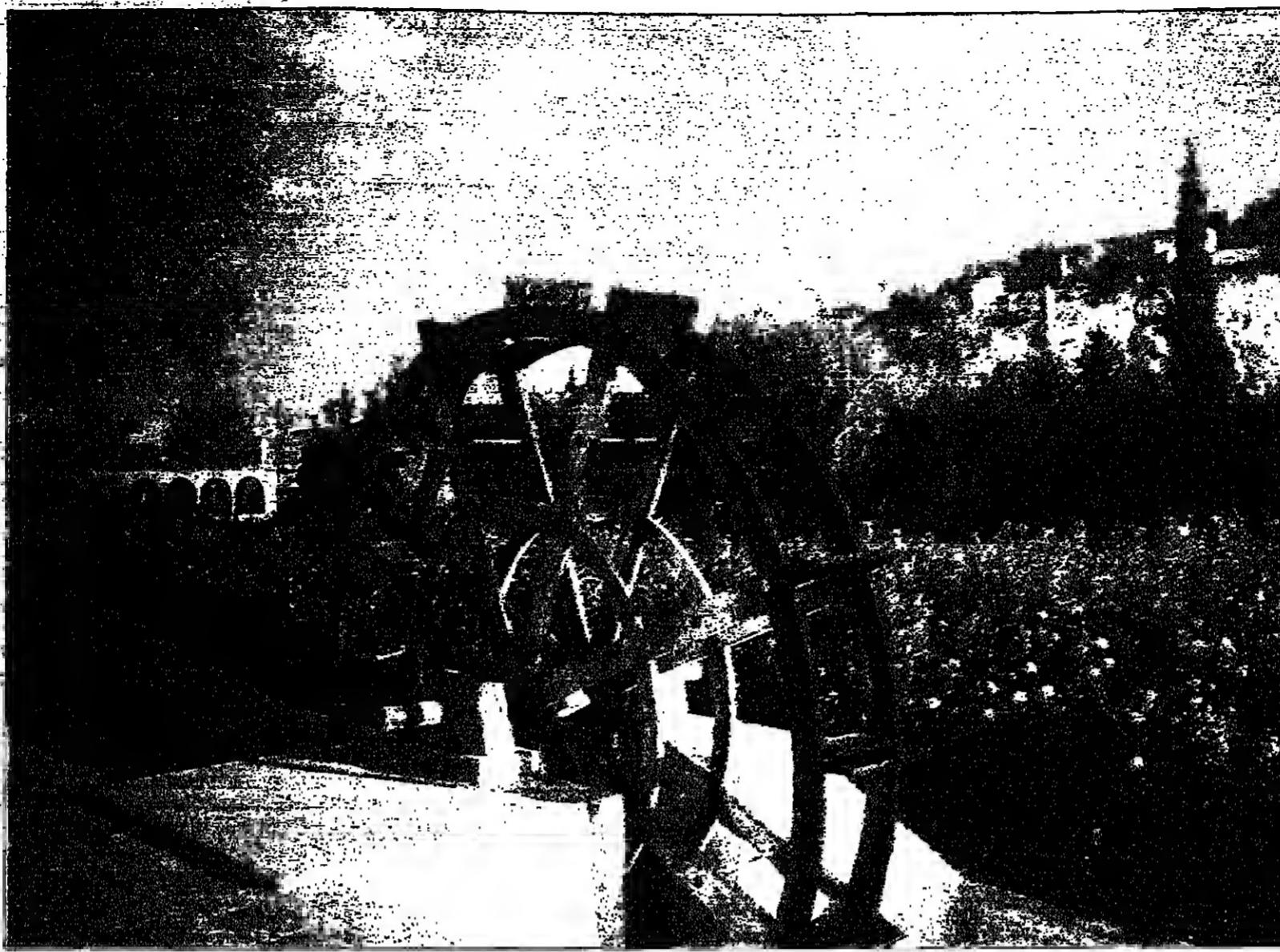
Ten years ago, Urfa was on the tourist trail that wound round eastern Turkey, but since then, the Gulf War and the Kurdish liberation struggle have frightened visitors away. No matter that Urfa keeps its nose pretty clean; it, too, gets the cold shoulder. Ozcan was running a one-man campaign to reinstate it on the tourist map.

Like most visitors, I had my sights set on a quick foray south to Harran to inspect the famous beehive houses designed to a biblical blueprint, but Ozcan had other ideas. Tea finished, he whisked me off to get to grips with Urfa itself.

A lovely city of honey-coloured houses with stone tears dripping down their facades, Urfa is the perfect antidote to Turkey's coastal resorts, where looking for signs of anything particularly Turkish is as futile as searching for kebabs up Mount Everest. It's in Urfa more than in modern Istanbul, that east really meets west, and the covered bazaar is an instant illustration, with black denims on sale alongside sheepskins, saddles and copious tinware.

Visitors to Turkey usually have a love-hate relationship with the carpet dealers, but in Urfa few tourists means no high-pressure sales tactics. In the bazaar, we inspected piles of bargain-priced carpets. "People come here with their old rugs when they hit hard times," Ozcan explained. A sort of pawnshop system, then, which didn't stop me leaving with a delightful ditty bag that had been unstitched to make a floor covering.

At the heart of the bazaar there were the plane trees, just as I remembered them, with the old men in flat caps perched on wooden chairs, playing *tabla* as if their lives



depended on it. Ozcan ordered glasses of *sabzeh*, a milky drink that tastes like diluted custard, while I wrestled with sudden edginess, conscious that I was trespassing in a man's world.

In place of more conventional tourists,

Urfa is full of devout Muslim pilgrims. According to legend, the prophet Abraham was born in a cave here. Leaving Ozcan to round up other stray wanderers, I popped in to inspect the birthplace, expecting the reverential silence of a church. What I got was the atmosphere of a family picnic, and a vivid illustration of Urfa's crossroads

location. Half the women wore head-to-toe Iranian black. A few sported the glistening, colourful robes of Syria. A handful of westernised urbanites made me feel as overdressed in trousers, long sleeves and headscarf as if I'd worn them to the beach.

Outside, the authorities have turned their back on the Turkish tradition of tearing down any half-way attractive old building and replacing it with a concrete high-rise. Instead, a delightful rose garden, irrigated in the ferocious sun by a wooden waterwheel, links the cave with Urfa's other holy of holies, the sacred carp pool. The

Abraham story reports how, after King Nimrod sentenced Abraham to be roasted alive for messing with his idols, God stepped in to turn the fire into water and the coals into fish. Voila, the carp pool, where I handed over my lira for a tray of pellets to feed some of the world's most pampered pisciforms.

Above the pool stands a ruined castle, probably dating from the time when Urfa was Edessa. A quick look at the map says it all. Anyone wanting to reach Europe from the Middle East would have had to pass through Edessa which was occupied, in turn,

by Alexander the Great, the Romans and the Arabs. For a brief period it even masqueraded as the quirky European County of Edessa, a leftover from the first Crusade.

Ultimately it fell to the Seljuks, and then to the Ottomans who renamed it Urfa. The Santi (pronounced "Shani") which precedes its signs is a relatively recent hon-orific, meaning "glorious".

With the wind whipping up a dust storm, I hoofed it to the hammam. In western Turkey most hams, especially those for women, are little more than tourist

attractions. Out east I was used to soaking alongside the locals, although I'd never yet heard a shadow-of-the-playground hubbub like the one that emanated from behind this particular door.

Pushing it open, I found myself in a cavernous vestibule filled to overflowing with women and children. The noise level dipped momentarily as the occupants took in this unexpected apparition, but it was too late to back out. Within minutes I'd been stripped of my clothes and bundled into a bathhouse so chaotic it was hard to find space to sit down. "It's cheap, you see," Ozcan later explained. "People take their lunch, make a day of it."

Ozcan had one final ace to play, and that was his excursion to Harran. It started with a drive to Sogmatar, a tiny, all-but-forgotten desert village. There, in the gloom of the Pugion Cave, we inspected spooky, life-size rock-cut figures in crescent crowns, relics of the equally all-but-forgotten cult of the moon god Sin.

From Sogmatar we rattled along a dirt track through a landscape of browns, yellows and ochres. At a rare waterhole, the cows were chocolate brown, the shaggy-fleeced sheep a grubby fawn, and even the water was a murky treacle.

After the warm welcome we'd received in Sogmatar, Harran's mobs of bonhom-demanding children were a dismal reminder of the likely long-term fallout from our adventuring. It was a shock, too, to bump back on to the Tarmac highway. Gone were the browns and yellows, replaced by shades of green, the cotton-bush legacy of the brand-new Ataturk Dam, cornerstone of Ankara's plan to make the desert bloom. Back in Urfa, Ozcan turned to me with a grin. Now, if I wanted to see the Ataturk Dam ...

Harran-Nemrut Tours, Koprubasi Caddesi, Sanli Urfa (090 414 215 1575). Day trip to Harran and around, £15 (£9), assuming at least four people. Hotel Harran, Ataturk Bulvari, Sanli Urfa (090 414 313 2860). To stay in an old Urfa house, try Sunlurfa Vatiligi Konuk Evi, off Yali Fua Bey Caddesi (00 90 414 215 9377)

TEL: 0171 293 2222



TRAVEL: TURKEY

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Turkey

Stay in palaces of Sultans. Sunbathe by your own private swimming pool. Soak over extraordinary Cappadocia in a hot air balloon. Book on the deck of a schooner/privite motor yacht on one of luxury air-conditioned mini cruises, or enjoy the comforts of Club Sirena or Sirene Paradise only available during the summer months.

Call now for our 1998 brochure. Also open Saturday 10am to 5pm.

0171 625 3001

TURKEY FOR THINKING PEOPLE

Independent tours • History & archaeology • All activities including Golf, Skiing, Trekking, Gulet Cruises, etc. Ottoman Period accommodation in Old Istanbul. Low rates scheduled fares to Turkey/North Cyprus.

ISTANBUL City Breaks £219

(3 nts in an Ottoman house based on B&B. Price includes next day city tour excl. lunch) available for departures until 30/6/98

for more details CALL PRESIDENT HOLIDAYS 0181 688 7555 ABTA V957X ATOL 2483

Insight Escorted Tours

Tours are escorted by a professional Tour Director, with first class central hotels, many valuable inclusions & carefully planned itineraries.

Turkish Delights (8 days)
Wonders of Turkey (10 days)
Treasures of Turkey (15 days)

Call 0990 143 433 for a brochure.

SINGLES

Great holidays for single people

No single supplements

TURKEY £399

Gulet Cruises

1wk FB - 8 & 15 May

Singles Abroad

0181 809 0090

ABTA V9930 ATOL 4463

TURKEY 98 TURKEY 98 TURKEY 98

5 Star Air Conditioned Apartments from £159 3 Star Half Board from £199 Half Board from £229

May and June departures. Gulet, Islander & Barge cruises. Call us today for free brochure and discount offer.

0171 287 1988

Unspoilt Turkey & Northern Cyprus

- Wide selection of quality hotels & self-accommodation, Fr £100-2000
- Islands with Resorts/N Cyprus
- Cultural Tailor Made Holidays
- Private villas with pools
- Excellent Gulet Cruises
- Flight Only

Call for our brochure & 25 hours 0121 653 4018 ATOLIAN SKY HOLIDAYS

SIMPLY Turkey

Escape the mainstream with our unique range of rural cottages, villas with private pools and friendly hotels. Plus our flexible 'Wandering' programme, special interest holidays, gulet cruising and Istanbul city breaks.

0181 995 9323

ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 ATTO

TURKEY A Land Unique

FOR DETAILS CALL 0891 887755 (calls charged at 50p per minute)

Summer '98 brochure OUT NOW!

2nd edition

Departures from 7 UK airports

Over 100 new hotels & apartments

Early booking discounts

Scuba diving packages

The UK's largest specialist tour operator to Turkey

Reservations: 0171 499 9991 (Mon-Sat)

Brochures: 01233 211 402

ABTA V955 or from authorised Travel Agents ATOL 3765

TURKEY & NORTH CYPRUS

Holidays to remember from the specialists

Our 21st year

for new free brochure call

0171-935 6961

METAK HOLIDAYS

70 WEBBECK ST, LONDON W1M 7HA

ABTA V247 FEDOR ATOL 1116

TURKEY AND N. CYPRUS

Specialists in Turkey and Cyprus

Tailor-made and package holidays.

Flights only avail.

Groups welcome.

Also Hols for Antalya Region avail.

TULIP HOLIDAYS

ISTANBUL CITY BREAKS

FROM £179pp

FLIGHT ONLY FROM £139

Phone for colour brochure

0171 734 0484

67-71 Oxford Street, London W1R 1RB

ATOL 4772

FORTHCOMING TRAVEL FEATURES

SPAIN
on Saturday 18th April

GREECE
on Saturday 25th April

PORTUGAL
on Sunday 26th April

To advertise alongside these features call
The Travel Team NOW

0171 293 2219

THIS NEWSPAPER AND YOU

If you have a complaint about an item in this newspaper which concerns inaccuracy, intrusion, harassment or discrimination, write to the editor about it.

If you're still dissatisfied you can write to the Press Complaints Commission, an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press.

THIS NEWSPAPER ADOPTES BY THE FCC'S DECISIONS

PCC

1 SALISBURY SQUARE LONDON EC4Y 8AE.
Telephone 071 353 1248 Facsimile 071 353 8355

This space has been donated by the publisher

TURKEY '98

Country from the cradle closer to the coast
Gulet Cruising
Idyllic coastal villages
Villas with pools
Cappadocia & Mount Nemrut
Two Centres & Tailor-made Holidays
DOLUNAY HOLIDAYS

01452 501978

sunWORLD

DISCOVER the WONDERS of Turkey on a traditional motor yacht.

Gulet cruises from only £299 for 7 nights (full board)

For information on late booking discounts or a brochure call 0870 606 1973 or see your local travel agent

TURKEY A Land Unique

FOR DETAILS CALL 0891 887755 (calls charged at 50p per minute)

Basket cases

Up, up and away ...
Eric Kendall reveals
how to stay cool in a
hot-air balloon

"I've started, so I'll finish" could be a balloon pilot's motto, along with "What goes up must come down". Landing, is where it's at with ballooning: it's the key issue.

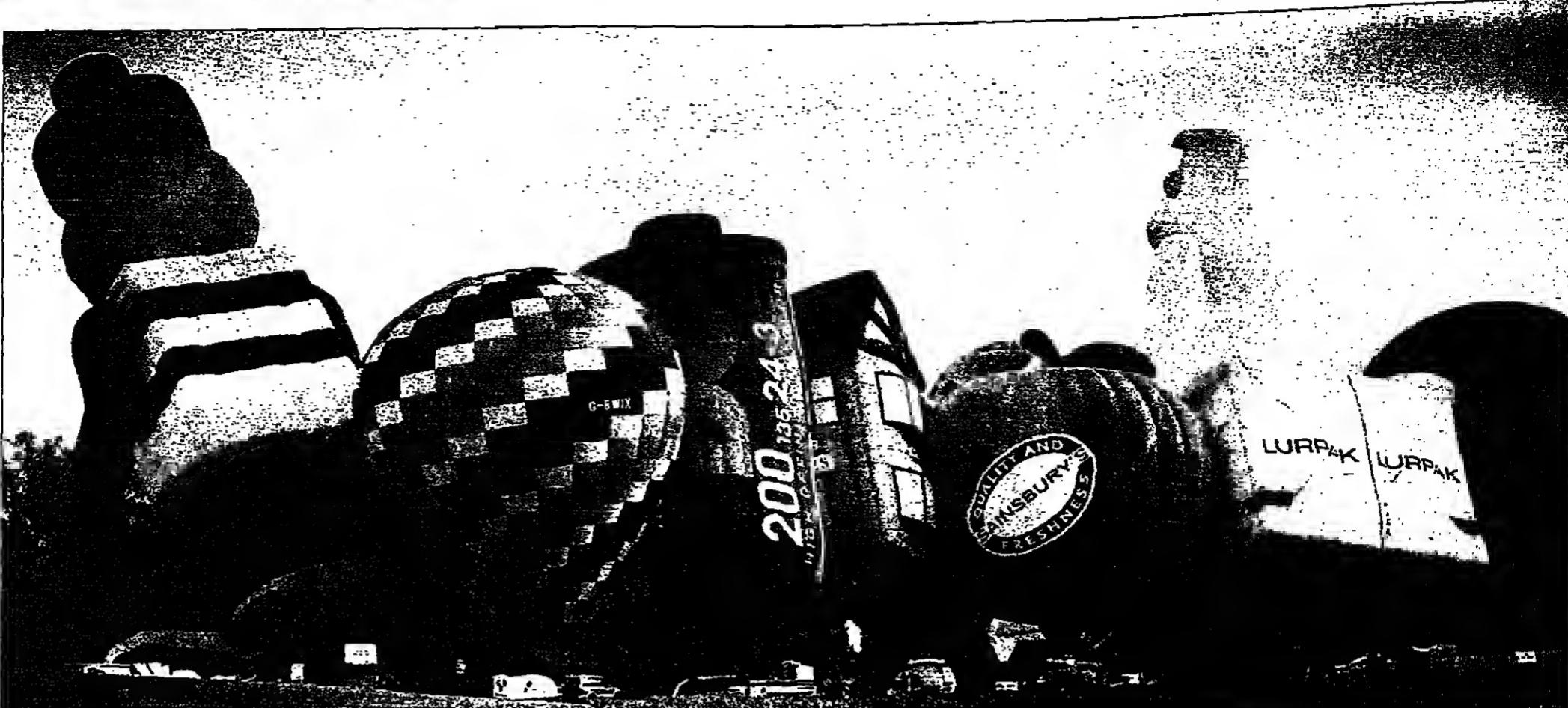
Landing conditions are in the pilot's mind well before he unfurls his balloon. You may not know exactly where you'll end up, but you need a clear idea of the direction and speed of travel. Closer attention is paid to Ian McCaskill or Suzanne Charlton than may seem proper, the night before a flight. If winds are too high or gusty, getting away could be turbulent but landing could be disastrous: there are no air-brakes or squealing rubber on Tarmac to ease your touch-down. Hoping for the best isn't involved. It's got to be right. The final check, in contrast to the gravitas of the moment, is with a helium-filled party balloon, whose rate of ascent and direction of flight are scrutinised as it disappears into the distance.

Putting everything together is surprisingly simple: unrolling the "envelope" (balloon) which has a worrying hole in the top, attaching the basket, securing propane cylinders and testing the burner. The basics are easy to grasp (hot air rises) and anyone familiar with gas camping stoves should feel at home with the burners and related paraphernalia. Even the "quiet" jet, used to reduce the startling effect that sudden roaring can have on livestock, is pretty impressive. It startled me every time.

With the envelope inflated first by a monster fan and then with the burner, things start to happen fast. Pre-take-off checks range from the technical (checking for holes) to the obvious but vital, such as ensuring that the chase vehicle keys are in the ignition, not the pilot's pocket. Straining at the leash, the balloon responds in a big way to any wind, bobbing and milling, even pulling upwards as the wind blowing over the top of its curved surface produces "false lift".

Suddenly the quick release attaching us to a comfortingly large Land Rover is detached, and we're experiencing real lift. The ground falls away as quickly as the air becomes still, but the hulk of the balloon above provides a monolithic sense of security. Never mind if it is just hot air.

But anyway, there's no time for fussing around. Flying a balloon is a serious busi-



What goes up must come down – but lift-off in a balloon is a great deal easier than landing

Photograph: Philip Meek

ness, and once you've got going it's all happening, all of the time.

- touching it out, forcing things to go your way; the weather is bigger than you are.

Meanwhile, the views are stupefounding and the calm (apart from that quiet burr) is unbroken, save for a niggling worry (to a novice) about the big hole in the top of the envelope. Admittedly it's plugged by a "parachute", a large piece of fabric held in place by air pressure, until its release on landing rapidly deflates the balloon. Apart from that you haven't a care in the world.

But far sooner than you'd think - time flies when you fly - it's time to descend. Even when you're up high, the ground

Even when you're up high, the ground seems to be zooming by, and the lower you are, the faster it goes. Though a balloon pilot's naturally optimistic outlook makes the whole world a landing-strip, punctuated by obstacles such as power lines and houses, in practice you need to land where

No wonder the instructor says that ballooning is good life training: there's no fog fast, decisive responses.

houses, in practice you need to land where you'll do little damage, preferably in a set aside field.

So you pick your spot and go for it - you can't come round a second time. Aim for the start of the field, "rounding out" with a burn at 40ft to level off a couple of feet from the ground, then pull the red line to deflate the balloon, through that hole in the top. All you can do is hold on tight, bend your knees (you'll probably be feeling weak there anyway) and try to ignore the feeling of a total lack of control. It's the moment when it all comes together with a bang, balloon, earth and the contents of the basket. If you're doing more than about 8 knots it goes straight over, leaving everyone in a tangle and giggling helplessly. Like ballooning itself, the ending is unpredictable: you never know who'll end up in your arms. It's definitely the friendliest way to fly.

Thanks to student pilot Emily Wilson, instructor Thomas Wilson (of Wizard Balloons) and ground crew Cathy and Colin Leeder

LEARNING TO HARNESS HOT AIR

A minimum of 16 hours' dual flight training are required for a private pilot's licence, which allows you to pilot a balloon unsupervised. In practice it usually takes four to six months. Learning about crops and livestock is an important element of the training. People also become involved with ballooning by acting as ground crew, helping to launch, chase and retrieve the balloon.

Early mornings and late afternoons, when winds are generally light, are the normal times to fly. Whether learning or "joy-riding", boots are ideal for coping with muddy fields, and clothing made of natural fibres is a good idea. Big hairdos with lots of hairspray aren't — the burner is within reach and very hot.

Catching fire is not an issue for the balloon itself; the relevant parts are made from fire-resistant material.

The British Balloon & Airship Club is the governing body of the sport (01792 899777). Contact them if you want to become involved as ground crew or learn to fly balloons. The British Association of Balloon Operators (01789 488100) can provide details of member operators. Wizard Balloons in Norfolk (01379 898989) are available for passenger flights and to learn to fly. They also have details of a balloon/four-wheel-drive safari in Tunisia in November. To learn to fly abroad, try the Lindstrand Balloon School in Spain (fax: 00 34 5287 7249).

TEL: 0171 293 2222

TRAVEL: OVERSEAS

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Special Interest Holidays

Puts other holidays in the shade

EXODUS
The Different Holiday

Leaders in small group walking & discovery holidays, biking adventures & overland expeditions worldwide
9 Well Road, London SW12 0LT. 0181 673 0859. <http://www.exodus-travels.co.uk>

Special Interest

Worldwide Adventures

- Africa
- Central/South America
- Himalaya
- South East Asia
- Asia
- Canada & Alaska
- China
- India
- Australia

4 different dedicated colour brochures featuring the best adventure holidays available from specialist tour operators.

GUERBA
01373 858956 24hr
www.guerba.com 01373 858956 ATOL 2365

CORSICA

SPECIAL OFFERS from London - Stansted Airport

Departing April 12th, 19th & 26th
Holidays from £199

Call Reservations 01444 881414

Holiday Options

Independent Air Travel trading as Holiday Options
01444 881414

JOURNEY TO LATIN AMERICA

Escorted Groups & Bespoke Tours
0181 747 8315 or 0161 832 1441

WALKING IN FRANCE Italy, Europe & the Med. All levels, guided or independent, warm friendly hotels, great regional cuisine, everything arranged for you. Headwater 01606 813335 ATOL 2412 ATTO.

CYCLING DOWN QUIET country lanes. Just enough exercise to work up an appetite for the next great meal! Stay at charming hotels in France & Italy. We carry your bags. Headwater 01606 813338 ATOL 2412 ATTO.

CORSICAN PLACES. We specialise in Corsica. Lovely villas with pools, cottages by the sea, medieval village houses, carefully selected hotels. Very friendly personal service. ATOL 2647 ATTO. Tel 01243 460046 Fax 460003.

FLY-DRIVE CORSICA. Direct flights from Manchester, Gatwick. Tailor-made holidays to coastal and mountain apts. & hotels. Early season May/June prices now available. Brochure line 01242 240 310 (www.vtboholes.co.uk) VTB Holidays Ltd. ATOL ATOL 1403

Airport Parking

HEATHROW £4.95 per day. Free parking after 14 days. Max charge £89.30 up to 50 days. Secure Parking 0181 813 8130

Baleares

VINTAGE SPAIN: Mallorcan & Menorcan farmhouses with pools in unspoilt areas, near coast. 01954 261 431 ATOL ATOL 2787

Cyprus

PAKISTAN

Tel: 01323 422213
info@himalayanfolkways.com

INDIAN HIMALAYAS

This Summer Enjoy:
Trekking • Jeep Safaris
Motorcycling • Cycling
Yoga • Wild Flowers
Geological Tours
Explore Himachal, Ladakh & Zanskar with:-
HIMALAYAN FOLKWAYS
Tel: 01323 422213
info@himalayanfolkways.com

KE ADVENTURE

Exploration, adventure, no roads areas of the Karakorum & Hindu Kush.
• Trekking • Climbing
• Mountain Biking

SKYROS The Holistic Experience. In Greece & the Caribbean. 0171 474 7366
www.skyros.com

THE INDEPENDENT

Special Interest

CITY BREAKS

SIMPLY TRAVEL'S
Brief Encounters

EUROPEAN SPECIALS

Excellent deals. City Breaks for £144 pp.
Many City Breaks & Car hire offers. European 1998 Brochure out NOW!
Please call LUPUS TRAVEL LTD. 0171 308 3000 or 47892

France

EuroSites
20% off all holidays completed by 18th July 1998*
CALL FOR A FREE BROCHURE NOW ON 0990 134 740

FRENCH Affair

Allez France

Villas & Cottages

BRITANNIA COAST: Delightful stone cottages on private site. Avail. May, from £50ppc. 01743 363016

ATTRACTIVE NORMANDY FARM-HOUSE, 1 hr Caen. 2nd fl. 1 acre orchard garden. Avail. May-Oct. From £175 pp. 01636 258414

Languedoc, S. France: Mansion with two acre garden and pool. Sleeps up to 20. Med. 30 mins. Avail. June / July. From £650 pp. 0533 4 6724452. English owners.

CYCLING down quiet country lanes. Just enough exercise to work up an appetite for the next great meal! Stay at charming small hotels in 10 enchanting regions. We carry your bags. Headwater 01606 813340 ATOL 2412 ATTO.

BONNES VACANCES: Free Colour Brochure. Save ££'s. Book direct with owners! 550 self contained & B&B places. Travel & Insurances. 01206 885555.

LOT VALLEY, S.W. France. Wide selection of country houses all with own pools. For colour brochure contact Peter Aldous at Kingfisher Holidays. T: 0333 553 40713 F: 01233 553 407471.

CYCLING OR WALKING: Hotel to hotel tours with luggage carried or single centre holidays. Belle France 0171 223 777.

CYCLE TOURING in Britain from £150 per week. British Bikes 01575 350073. e-mail: [britishbikes.com](http://www.britishbikes.com)

GARDEN OF FRANCE: Holiday cottage to rent-sleeps 4. Quiet, tranquil, large garden, river. Languedoc restored 100 year old bakers. Full details, please ring Mrs Cornell. 01680 610501

LOIRE VALLEY: Lovely sunny converted 17C barn or house, with their own pools are in the Palmer & Partner blue book. Tel: 01494 612002.

REAL PORTUGAL: All types of rentals/holidays. North to South. Portfolio tel: 01746 551361.

SUNVIL DISCOVERY: Flexible fly-drives North to South. Character B&Bs, Pousadas, Manor Houses, Plus Azores, Madeira. 0181 847 4749 ATOL 809

QUINTA DO LAGO - fine houses with their own pools are in the Palmer & Partner blue book. Tel: 01746 511202.

VINTAGE PORTUGAL: Country houses with pools in unspoilt areas of Estremadura and Andalucia. 01664 261431 ATOL 2767 ATTO ABTA

THE INDEPENDENT

Newspaper Publishing plc recognises that although every reasonable precaution is taken, no responsibility can be accepted for sights and/or accommodation offered through these columns, or any loss arising therefrom. Readers are advised to take all necessary precautions before entering into any travel arrangements.

AZORES

SUNVIL DISCOVERY: The Azores. Widest, most flexible range to this stunning archipelago. Whales watching. 0181 847 4749 ATTO ATOL 808

Africa

TAILORMADE SAFARIS

ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA, KENYA, TANZANIA & S. AFRICA.

AMAZING HOLIDAYS

Luxurious remote lodges. Walking, canoeing, riding and vehicle safaris with the very best guides. Superb wildlife. Adventure with comfort. Call us to create your ideal safari. Tel: 0181 995 9323 ATOL 1922 ATTO

GREECE

SIMPLY GREECE

Villa holidays for those who want to escape the crowds in style and comfort. PAROS • RHODES • OLYMPIA ZAKynthos • CORFU • KYTHIRA SAMIOTHS • SHOPELOS • ALONISSOS For a brochure telephone: 01932 220477 <http://www.vcds.co.uk/villas/> ATOL 2341 ATOL 1922 ATTO

Greek Options

A quality selection of Villas and Apartments. We have over 15 years experience in offering holidays for the discerning traveller. *Strewn, Zakynthos, Paros, Rhodes, Paxos, Lefkada & Crete*. For your 1998 Brochure 0171 233 5233 ATOL 1922 ATTO

ITHACA - Friendly family run hotel offering traditional home cooking in relaxing surroundings. Beautiful location in unspoilt fishing village competitive prices. Book direct. Tel: 01942 244304 for brochure + info or fax 0303674 31718

PURE CRETE - recommended in The Independent On Sunday. Breathtaking views & empty beaches. Pure Crete. For brochure call 0181 760 6579 ATOL ATTO

GRECOPHILE/FILMENIA Escape package! A complete service for the more discerning traveller. ATOL ATTO 2817, 01422 373998

Caribbean

AAAH CUBA Independent Travel. Interactive colour brochure. Tel: 0181 681 3512 ATOL 2429

Egypt

EXPLORE EGYPT
small group holidays - you'll see more. Nile Cruises, Felucca Safaris, Red Sea & Desert Adventures. 75 days from only £535 incl. return flights. Call Explore Worldwide on 01252 344161 for free brochure Fully Bonded ATTO/ATOL 2595

Far East

SUNVIL DISCOVERY: Thailand, Vietnam, Highly flexible tours on fly-drives for individuals. 0181 847 4749 ATOL ATOL 808

South America

BUNVIL DISCOVERY: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador + Cuba add-on. Highly flexible individual tours & fly-drives. Jungle lodges, nature reserves. 0181 847 4749 ATOL ATOL 808

Nearly 8% of Independent and Independent on Sunday readers have been on holiday to the USA in the last 12 months, representing nearly 6% of all British people who went on holiday there last year.

APRIL DEPARTURES

AUSTRALIA FROM AN UNBEATABLE £149 ONE WAY

For these and other great deals to Australia & New Zealand call or visit our Knightsbridge shop.

RETURN FARES FROM £399

AUSTRALIA'S GREAT ESCAPE, THE SHOP WHERE GREAT ADVENTURES BEGIN 0171 584 0202

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030

2031

2032

2033

2034

2035

2036

2037

2038

2039

2040

2041

2042

2043

2044

2045

2046

2047

2048

2049

2050

2051

2052

2053

2054

2055

2056

2057

2058

2059

2060

2061

2062

2063

2064

2065

2066

2067

2068

2069

2070

2071

2072

2073

2074

2075

2076

2077

2078

2079

2080

2081

2082

2083

2084

2085

2086

2087

2088

2089

2090

2091

2092

2093

2094

2095

2096

2097

2098

2099

20100

20101

20102

20103

20104

20105

20106

20107

20108

20109

20110

20111

20112

20113

20114

20115

20116

20117

20118

20119

20120

20121

20122

20123

20124

20125

20126

20127

20128

20129

20130

20131

20132

20133

20134

20135

20136

20137

20138

20139

20140

20141

20142

20143

20144

20145

20146

20147

20148

20149

20150

20151

20152

20153

20154

20155

20156

20157

20158

20159

20160

20161

20162

20163

20164

20165

20166

20167

20168

20169

20170

20171

20172

20173

20174

20175

20176

20177

20178

20179

20180

20181

20182

20183

20184

20185

20186

20187

20188

20189

20190

20191

20192

20193

20194

20195

20196

20197

20198

20199

20200

20201

20202

20203

20204

20205

20206

20207

20208

20209

20210

20211

20212

20213

20214

20215

20216

20217

20218

20219

20220

20221

20222

20223

20224

20225

20226

20227

20228

20229

20230

20231

20232

20233

20234

20235

20236

20237

20238

20239

20240

20241

20242

20243

20244

20245

20246

20247

20248

20249

20250

20251

20252

20253

20254

20255

20256

20257

20258

20259

20260

20261

20262

20263

20264

20265

20266

20267

20268

20269

20270

20271

20272

20273

20274

20275

20276

20277

20278

20279

20280

20281

20282

20283

20284

20285

20286

20287

20288

20289

20290

20291

20292

20293

20294

20295

20296

20297

20298

20299

20300

20301

20302

20303

20304

20305

20306

20307

20308

20309

20310

20311

20312

20313

20314

20315

20316

20317

20318

20319

20320

20321

20322

20323

20324

20325

20326

20327

20328

20329

20330

20331

20332

20333

20334

20335

20336

20337

20338

20339

20340

20341

20342

20343

20344

20345

20346

20347

20348

20349

20350

20351

20352

20353

20354

20355

20356

20357

20358

20359

20360

20361

20362

20363

20364

20365

20366

20367

20368

20369

20370

20371

20372

20373

20374

20375

20376

20377

20378

20379

20380

20381

20382

20383

20384

20385

20386

20387

20388

20389

20390

20391

20392

20393

20394

20395

20396

20397

20398

20399

20400

20401

20402

20403

20404

20405

20406

20407

20408

20409

20410

20411

20412

20413

20414

20415

20416

20417

20418

20419

20420

20421

20422

20423

20424

20425

20426

20427

20428

20429

20430

20431

20432

20433

20434

20435

20436

20437

20438

20439

20440

20441

20442

20443

20444

20445

20446

20447

20448

20449

20450

20451

20452

20453

20454

20455

20456

TEL: 0171 293 2222

FAX: 0171 293 2505

OVERSEAS, UK

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

includes all pre-paid taxes	one way	return
MELBOURNE	£325	£605
PERTH	£386	£641
BRISBANE	£338	£505
AUCKLAND	£282	£519
BANGKOK	£224	£372
HONG KONG	£280	£537
SINGAPORE	£256	£405
BALI	£259	£405
TOKYO	£323	£489
INDIA	£220	£350
N.YORK	£122	£205
BOSTON	£161	£217
WASHINGTON	£172	£221
CHICAGO	£175	£224
FLORIDA	£195	£221
LOS ANGELES	£158	£271
SAN FRANCISCO	£211	£281
LA VEGAS	£164	£272
ROME	£193	£274
AROUND THE WORLD	£188	£222
CARIBBEAN	£138	£277
JOBURG	£267	£388
CAPE TOWN	£231	£335
HABARAN	£340	£495
MARRAKESH	£253	£278
DUBAI	£182	£266
CARO	£188	£222
AROUND THE WORLD	£744	

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £32 - USA £24 - AFRICA £39 - PACIFIC £46 - ASIA £17
USA CAR HIRE FROM £20 PER DAY - CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORED WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES
OPEN EASTER SUNDAY & MONDAY

All our travel centres are open Mon-Sat from 9am-5pm, Thur 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm

AUSTRALIA FARES FROM £463
NEW ZEALAND FARES FROM £605 RETURN

Car & campervan hire, airfares, package holidays, Accommodation, flights, cruises, guided tours, etc.

For more details call 01420 88724 or 0171 497 0515

USA FARES FROM £199
CANADA FARES FROM £290 RETURN

Call us and see us today centrally located in Reading Circuit

Pop in and see us today centrally located in Reading Circuit

01420 88380 or 0171 287 5559

Travelbag OFFICIALLY APPOINTED CHARTERS AGENT

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

SYDNEY return £567
CAIRNS £626
PERTH £455
AUCKLAND £503
BANGKOK £377
HONG KONG £341
DELHI £351
SINGAPORE £373
DURAI £398
NAIROBI £395
Departs 16 April-15 June
JO'BURG £376

to PERTH
fr £460 return
AUCKLAND
fr £603 return

ALL OUR FLIGHT PRICES INCLUDE FREE AIRPORT TAXES

0181 547 3322

ASTA ATOL 256 ATOA 2255 IATA

Travel Services

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Flexible cover at a price to suit your pocket.
£10 OFF EVERY POLICY SOLD

CLUB DIRECT 0500 787838

ANNUAL FAMILY TRAVEL INSURANCE FROM £59

INDIVIDUAL COVER FROM £149

TRAVELPLAN DIRECT 0800 0188 747

CYCLING & WALKING

Discover the wonder of Italy with ITALIAN LIFE

THE WIDEST RANGE OF VILLAS

TUSCANY, UMBRIA, VENETO, LAZIO, SICILY

0113 2050 205

Walking & Cycling Holidays in Tuscany, Umbria

Discover these timeless regions and explore the delightful countryside, the ancient castles and cultural treasures. Fine wine, traditional specialities and friendly, comfortable hotels. Ring now for your 1998 colour brochure

HEADWATER 01606 813342 ATOL 2012

SUNRISE DISCOVERY Flexible fly-drives to Tuscany & Umbria. Charter 68 accom., Plus Sicily, Lakes and Cities. 0181 847 4748 ATOL ATOL 2012

LAKES, MOUNTAINS and beaches. Wide range of hotels and self catering throughout Italy including Elba and Sicily at very reasonable prices. Auto Plan 01543 257777

USA

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181 546 4545

0181 546 6000

0181



Months away from the mint sauce

The lambing season is an exhausting time for any farmer who keeps sheep, but somehow it is most traumatic if you have only a few ewes, as we do. In a flock of hundreds, no matter how humane and careful a shepherd is, he (or she) simply has no time to dispense much individual care or sympathy. With only a dozen animals, on the other hand, you know most, if not all, of them by name, and cannot help becoming personally involved with their problems.

When you know each sheep personally, you can really lose your appetite at lambing time.

writes Duff Hart-Davis

bles into small nursery pens, so that the infants can gain strength and the families bond together.

This year began auspiciously. The first two ewes to produce both gave birth to twins during the night, and there were

no complications. Then came a set of triplets—a mixed blessing. On the face of things, it seems splendid to have got three lambs from one mother; the trouble is, she has only two teats, and even if she has the instinctive skill to rotate her offspring so that all can feed, there is a risk that the strain of sucking will bring on mastitis—a disease that can be cured if caught in time, but which may easily put one side of the udder out of action, thus effectively ending the ewe's breeding career.

After the good beginning, things went downhill. A singleton lamb died within hours of birth, apparently of hypothermia; and as the mother had almost no milk, she could not foster any orphan that later events might create.

Then another ewe rejected the first of her new-born twins, butting it away whenever it tried to approach. The only way to save it was to bring it into the kitchen and install it beside the Aga.

At first it wouldn't drink from a bottle. When it did start to suck at a rubber teat, it seemed to inhale the milk, and developed a rattle in chest. My wife rushed it to the vet, who diagnosed pneumonia, but reckoned the animal had a chance and gave it an antibiotic injection. Fortunately, it rallied

ed to explain, we named the little ram Sophocles. Now we had to take a tough decision: he would do better with a companion, and the best bet all round seemed to be to filch one of the triplets from its mother. This we did, taking elaborate precautions so that the ewe would not hear her snatched baby bleating. So Sylvia - white as snow after thorough maternal washings - also came tramping in the kitchen.

For a few days progress was agonisingly slow. Neither lamb seemed to realise that milk was the difference between life and death. But soon both saw my wife clearly as a foster-mother, and followed her round like little dogs.

Outside, things were going better. One ewe went into labour early in the morning, and after several hours appeared to have exhausted herself, with only the lamb's front feet showing. But when we tried to bring her in, she raced about so wildly that we felt sure the lamb had died. None of us

restraining at the front and my wife manipulating at the back, she brought forth not just one fine big ram lamb, but a second as well.

Finally all the ewes bar one had done their stuff. Only Jenny was left. Early one morning we were thrilled to see her cleaning up a lamb to the nearest pockmark. Alas - when we brought her in I found the leg of another, severed at the hip. We could imagine what had happened all too clearly; while she was having the second, a fox had nipped in and killed the first. No wonder she was intensely possessive of the survivor.

So our fortunes have been up and down. Our two orphans, established in a crèche of straw-bales in the yard, are doing well. The kitchen floor has been scrubbed as never before. We though, are condemned to a routine of four-hourly bottle feeds for weeks to come, and saddled with two surrogate children, so sweet that they will be hard to give up.

Nature note

- One unmistakable sound of early spring is the territorial drumming of greater and lesser spotted woodpeckers. The curiously mechanical noise – brrrrrrrrp, brrrrrrrp, like short bursts of machine-gun fire – is caused by male birds hammering their beaks on dead branches to warn off other males and advertise to females that a desirable customer is in occupation of the tree. The beak-strokes are incredibly rapid – a lesser spotted woodpecker has been timed putting in 33 hits in 1.3 seconds – and both species have an in-built cushion at the base of the bill to stop the shock of the impacts being transmitted to the brain.

When it comes to hacking out a nest-hole, the birds adopt different tactics. By experimental tapping they find points at which trunks or branches are rotten and, therefore, suitable for excavation; then they bore and chip away as quietly as possible, so that they do not attract the attention of predators.

Spotted woodpeckers are small, slim birds, mottled black and white, and males have small crimson caps. Greater spotted are only about 9in long, lesser spotted less than 6in long. Green woodpeckers, their large cousins - both sexes of which are red-capped - do not drum territorially, but all three species share the same looping, undulating flight.

Duff Hart-Davis

What, when, where ...



How far can you hurl a haggis? Head for the Cairngorm Mountains on Easter Sunday and discover more about this arcane activity from members of the Order of the Crumbs at the annual haggis-hurling competition at Nethy Bridge. In the evening you could dine on six courses at the Abernethy Highland Banquet, attended by Dougal McDougal of Dougal, and have an opportunity to twirl afterwards in the eightsome reel.

The hoggis-hurling competition takes place at 10.30am on 12 April at the Nethybridge Hotel, Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire, PH25 3DP (01479 821203). Entry for the competition costs 50p a throw, with the proceeds going to Cairngorm Mountain Rescue.

Sally Kindberg

TEL: 0171 293 2222

CLASSIFIED: INDEPENDENT TRADERS

FAX: 0171 293 2505

For Sales

ROSIE NIEPER Computers by Windy Sisters

Computers are not intelligent, they only think they are...
100 might not suffice my laptop anymore!!! It's not my laptop.
Is it broken? No. Fall - Press F1 to boot.
Error: Keyboard not attached, press F1 to continue.
Does fuzzy logic tickle? The definition of Upgrade
Take old bags out, put new ones in. Mystery
Just another pose in the glass. Fixed my slope.
An easy upgrade. Search function on keyboard is
broken. My software never has bugs, it just develops
new features. (Albert, Moby, Alice, etc.)
Elusive office atmosphere, redefined coffee.
Breakfast, keep your hair wet. Press my bag to
clean it or my other bag to spill... O

FREE CATALOGUE WITH LOTS MORE DESIGNS

100% Cotton t-shirt, XL £12.99, p&p £1.95 per order.
Quote NS3, Rosie Nieper, 12 Munster Road, Teddington,
Middlesex, TW11 8LL or phone 0181-255 9926. 24hrs.

EROTIC CHINESE PRINTS

Ancient and erotic oriental art from the Ming period
(206 B.C. - A.D. 1644)
Tastefully reproduced from 'Bridal Books'. Originally painted to demonstrate sexual techniques for the young bride and groom.
Printed on fine archive paper.
Full colour catalogue £5.00
Allow 14 - 28 days.
Full cost refunded with first purchase.
Send cheque or P.O. to:
Arrowe Marketing,
Round Lane Trading Est.
Exmouth, EX8 4RN.
01395 222108

Books

FICTION WRITERS
Let us publish, promote and market your novel on a fee basis.
Write for details to:
Ruth Nieper, Suite H,
Marionette Books,
Belgrave Mews, Cornwall Way,
Birmingham, CV2 3AE
Tel: 01612 345623
Fax: 01612 345624

Personal

FERTILITY problem means London couple need sperm donor to help them have a child. Ideally you are a graduate two students, tall, slim, and have either learned healthy children or are a sperm donor at a recognised clinic. Thank you.

Replies to: Box No 774477,
The Independent, 1st Floor,
One Canada Square,
London E14 5JL. Letters for the Sperm Donor section can be sent to: The Independent, 1st Floor, One Canada Square, London E14 5JL. Letters for the Sperm Donor section can be sent to: The Independent, 1st Floor, One Canada Square, London E14 5JL.

House & Home

Stairlift Rentals.

Call us now on freephone
0800 19 19 19

For a free no obligation quote:

- Direct from the manufacturer.
- Next day installation available nationwide.
- Rent or buy.
- New or reconditioned.

GIVE YOUR LIFE A LIFT®

ACORN STAIRLIFTS

Unusual Gifts

The best activity toys in the whole, wide garden

FREE SELECTIONS SENSUAL PLEASURE GUIDE!

SELECTIONS FOR SENSUAL COLOGNE OF INTIMATE SECRETS FOR THOSE MOMENTS OF PASSION FOR YOUR PRIVATE COLLECTION
01635 862100
STUNTMAN VHS
PAL, NTSC, REGION 2

When you're tired of pedalling just switch on the **SINCLAIR ZETA II** and take it easy

Activity Toys

Climbing, swinging, sliding, splashing, bouncing, laughing - get your copy of our fun filled brochure for a lifetime of outdoor play.

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

From legend articles saved from 1642-1993 Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Send today.
REMEMBER WHEN
520 Purley Way, TN Croydon CR9 4RE
0181 688 6323 or call FREE 0500 520 000

THE GENIUS™

Possibly the world's best pencil sharpener. Adjusts to make three different precision points. Solid brass. Made in Germany. Leather case, instructions, spare blade. ONLY £29.95 inc p&p.

Hills disappear, headwinds vanish no more pushing

WRITE OR PHONE NOW FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE

30% OFF

Custom-made to fit any size, shape. Tablesafe protects your polished table against heat and stains. Can be reversed for use as a writing surface. Delivery 7-10 days. Write or phone for details and samples.

TABLESAFE
HEAT RESISTANT PROTECTION FOR YOUR TABLE

ORIGINAL IRISH GRANDFATHER SHIRT

For generations, the GLENESKE shirt has been a traditional part of everyday life in rural Ireland. 100% brushed cotton, with tailored collar, GLENESKE offers warmth, comfort and durability, washable and practical for men and women.

Colours: Indigo with black, blue, red, green & four stripes. Also plain white. Sizes: SML/XL £19.99 XXL/XXXL £21.99
NIGHTSHIRTS
GLENESKE
The Grandfather Shirt Co.
Dept 05, 15 Hopetoun Park, Portobello, BT56 8SW
Tel: 01265 823617 Fax: 01265 823697

For Sales

NEW CUSHIONS FOR WINDSOR DINING CHAIRS

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**
43 Imperial Way
Croydon CR9 4LP 0181 688 5808

ERCOL - PRIORY & other good makes

- * High quality foam interiors and covers, fitted with 4 tapes and press studs.
- At a fraction of shop prices.
- * FREE fabric samples

LYNPLAN (Dept 057) **LynPlan**

TEL: 0171 293 2222

12/PROPERTY

RESIDENTIAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

London Property

London Property

LONDON DOCKLANDS EASTER REVIEW



0171 499 9091

A SELECTION OF 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS AND PENTHOUSES IN A RANGE OF MODERN DEVELOPMENTS (MANY WITH RIVER VIEWS) INCLUDING:

- COMPASS POINT - 1 BEDS FROM £105,000
- SOVEREIGN VIEW - 1 BEDS FROM £110,000
- ATLANTIC WHARF - 1 BEDS FROM £140,000
- PREMIERE PLACE - 2 BEDS FROM £150,000
- CAPITAL WHARF - 2 BEDS AT £350,000

IDEAL AS A CITY HOME OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH YIELDS OF UP TO 11%

LANDLORDS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 10% LETTING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE

IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RIVERSIDE APARTMENTS

ATLANTIC

5 minutes walk to Tower Bridge

IDEAL
INVESTMENT
OPPORTUNITY

SHOW FLAT:
0171 790 3553

From
£160,000

SOLE AGENTS
**PHOENIX
PROPERTY**

Gun Court, 70 Wapping Lane, London E1 9RL

0171 702 3434

NEW PENTHOUSE FLATS
WITH CAR PARKING AND
PRIVATE TERRACE

Located in
BLOOMSBURY AND
CLARKENWELL

Prices between £310,000 and
£450,000

Sole Selling Agents

0171 250 1012

37-41 St. John Street, London EC1M 4AN

To Let

WESTMINSTER
SQUARE

Brand new apartments
750 metres from
Houses of Parliament
2 bed, 2 bath
Quality furnishings
24 hour Porterage
£365-£395pw

BANKSIDE

1 bed apt £230pw
2 bed apt £240pw
Fully Uniform

HASTINGS
INTERNATIONAL

SALES AND LETTINGS
0171 284 1066

OLD STREET
EC1

New conversions
close to Tube
2 bed, 2 bath
from
£245-£255pw

Furnished/Unfurnished
Sale Agent

WATERLOO

Stunning Loft House
2 bed, 2 bath £425pw

1 bed Apt. £250pw

2 bed Apt. £250pw

Furnished/Unfurnished

Leisure complex facility

KENSINGTON

Period conversion
3 bed, 2 bath
close Kensington High Street
Furnished
Sale Agent
£350pw

HAMPSTEAD

G.F. 2 bed flat
Furnished
£240pw

Waterside Properties

Exclusive Waterside Homes with Private Mooring

IN THE MARINA VILLAGE SOUTHAMPTON

Hythe Marina is an exclusive development of 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes with private mooring.

Ideally located in the vibrant waterside community of Hythe Marina Village and benefiting from an array of outstanding features.



- Gas central heating and feature fireplace in the drawing room
- Detached or integral garage
- Excellent road and rail communications with regular Intercity BR to London Waterloo and easy access to the M3, M27 and Eastleigh airport

Price guide from £172,950
Sales Office open daily
10.00am-5.00pm
Tel: 01703 844872

House-Hunters Group PLC
Brentwood House, Brentwood,
Hanger Lane, Watford, Herts, WD2 2RJ
www.house-hunters.co.uk

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

© 1997 House-Hunters Group PLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Printed on recycled paper.

01703 844872 Fax: 01703 844882

E-mail: info@house-hunters.co.uk

Website: <http://www.house-hunters.co.uk>

A twig in the house-buyer's beak

Houses look their best in spring, so Easter should be a busy time for buyers and sellers. Ginetta Vedrickas talks to some of those involved

Take a holiday now and you can't guarantee the weather. But you can be sure you won't be sitting next to an estate agent on the plane. Spring has sprung, traditionally an agent's busiest time of year, when hefty commissions are no longer mere fantasy. Will the house hunt take preference over the egg hunt this Easter weekend?

You may find Joanna Haddon-Knowles, of the Muswell Hill estate agency JHK, on the beach, although she prefers February, "when it's really miserable here". Joanna believes that the spring season has less influence now than in previous years: "In our area schools are the driving factor, and people even look in August to get into a good state school for September."

Post-Christmas has more significance than Easter for Joanna: "That is when things go berserk. People have either survived Christmas together and decide to buy somewhere, or have had such a terrible time that they never want another like it, so they start divorce proceedings and sell the house."

Conversely, in Hertfordshire commuter-land, Neil Guiffoyle, of Trend and Thomas, is "looking forward to more improvement" after a sluggish start to the year, and expects to be busy over the Easter weekend. Why is spring a classic time to buy? "Traditionally it's a favoured time simply because everything looks better," he says. His strongest current demand is for homes in the price range £250,000-£350,000.

After seeing "several years of erratic fluctuations" in the market,



Shaftesbury, Dorset: spring is traditionally a busy time for home buyers, but many larger agencies take a break

Photograph: Ian Murphy/Tony Stone Worldwide

Colin Fitzgerald, Hampton's director for Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, believes we are entering a more stable period with traditionally seasonal ebbs and flows, but adds a caution note: "Compared to last year our volume of valuations is up. So why aren't people buying?"

"I'm afraid many clients' price expectations are stuck in the past," he says. "We've sold a property, and found that when the house next door comes up for sale six months later there just isn't the interest there was for the first house. Stock is building, giving buyers more choice, so ven-

dors must price realistically." Many agents believe that low interest rates will continue for the rest of the year, and have welcomed Gordon Brown's "safe as houses" Budget. Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, says the Chancellor

"has given people hope of continued market recovery and stability", bringing an optimistic feel to the spring season. But what are buyers looking for?

Hamptons is seeing interest in "character properties requiring work but with roses round the door", prov-

ing that spring is a time when a young man's fancy also turns to DIY. Well presented homes are at their best at this time of year. An early spring has played its part, and vendors have been lavishing attention on their properties to make sure they can be seen in their full glory," says Gavin

West, director of western regions for Hamptons.

With "seasonality" back in vogue, would an underling dare take their holiday now? "Only the foolhardy would do that," says Gavin, who claims to love work so much that he confines vacations to Christmas alone. One agent, who asked to remain nameless, says: "I'm dying for a week away, but I know it won't go down well in the office so I'm planning a dodgy stomach in April. It will mean slapping on the old white foundation again before returning to work."

The Budget was kind, and the market looks optimistic. All is beautiful in the garden, but some buyers and sellers do not have a spring in their step. Clare Lederer put her two-bedroom flat in Upper Norwood, south London, on the market in October and found a buyer within the week. She viewed a house she liked, and made an offer which was accepted.

Clare hoped to have moved by Christmas, and didn't in her wildest dreams imagine spending Easter in her old flat. "I just didn't think it could go on this long," says Clare, who, because of a set of unrelated problems, has discovered her third buyer has dropped out and her vendor will wait no longer: "We've got until Friday. It's so stressful, a complete nightmare."

How does she plan to spend Easter? "I'm putting the flat back on the market, so I'll be showing people round and hope to get another buyer quickly." Clare will not look for another house until her situation is resolved, to spare herself further disappointment. But are agencies open for viewings over Easter?

Mark Coulter, negotiator for Chestertons in Tower Bridge, won't be at his desk, preferring to spend the weekend in the Cotswolds. Does he worry about losing sales? "No. Most people want to relax, and will be away. You'll probably find the smaller agencies open, but they have to try harder to establish themselves," says Mark, with the confidence of an agent who believes that spring has finally arrived.

How to get away from it all – in your garden



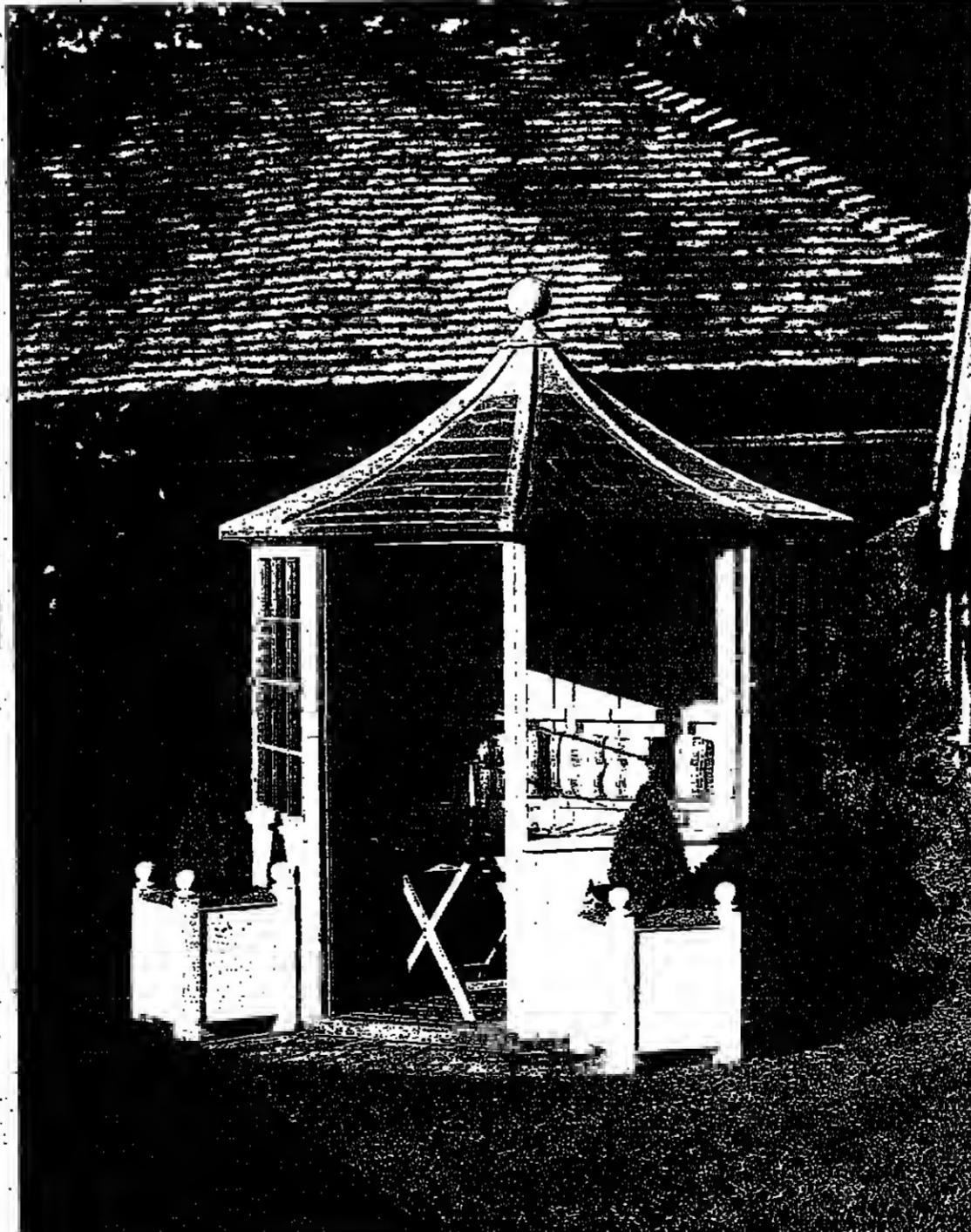
A summer house is the perfect place for painting, writing or simply relaxing with a gin and tonic, writes Rosalind Russell

George Bernard Shaw wrote in one. Charles Dickens described them as "sweet retreats which humane men erect for the accommodation of spirits". And garden designer Gertrude Jekyll used to sit in hers to watch the progress of a storm. A summer house is to the thinker what the humble garden shed is to the doer. And a lot more expensive.

While you might expect to pay around £500 for a 6ft x 8ft shed, a summer house, with seating, can cost upwards of £2,000.

"Mothers who come and sit in ours at shows say they'd love to have one for themselves... and allow no children in," says Zoe Docherty, of Scots of Thrapston. "A summer house is a wonderful place to relax in. They are popular with people who paint, write or just like somewhere to sit with a gin and tonic. They are also a popular present for a special wedding anniversary."

You do need a big enough garden to put one in, of course. Keen gardener and actress Susan Hampshire learns her lines in her summer house in Oxfordshire, accompanied by her pet



Peace of summer: 'A wonderful place to relax', say Scots of Thrapston (above); Susan Hampshire (above left) uses her summer house by Amdega to learn her lines

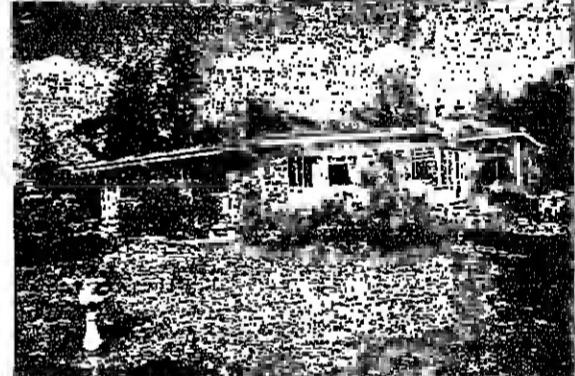
Amdega models are painted or stained to order. The windows and doors have leaded glass, interior walls are lined in oak, and the roofs are tiled with cedar shingles. Amdega's new range of botanical colours includes rarer shades than usual, including eryngium blue, zinnia red and a very jolly wisteria lilac, but the usual shades are available for those who prefer to have their summer house blend into its natural surroundings.

Amdega also offers a revolving turntable as an option and will make an initial site visit free of charge. A summer house needn't be entirely ruled out by those of slender means. B&Q's summer houses start at a penny under £700 for the octagonal design - 6ft by 6ft by 7ft 2ins high - with Georgian-style windows. The cornerhouse design at 7ft by 7ft by 7ft, with two large opening windows, costs £749.99, and the biggest - at 8ft high - is £849.99.

They are made of tongue and groove shiplap cladding, fully treated with a golden brown finish, and include hardware and felt but no accessories. There is a 10-year guarantee against rot and free home delivery. Both Scots and Amdega will be exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show next month.

Scots of Thrapston 01832 732366; Amdega 0800 591 523; B&Q (for nearest store) 0181 466 4166.

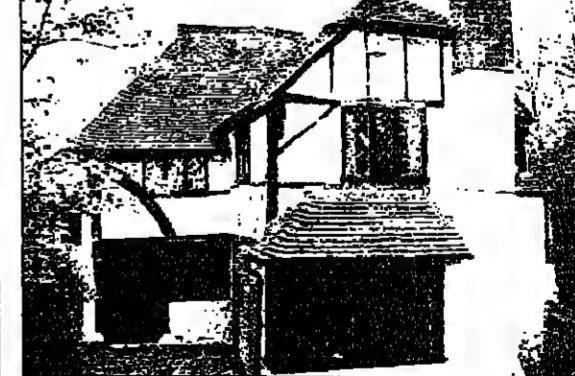
THREE TO VIEW: WITH SUMMER HOUSES



Piccolo, two miles from Beccles, in Norfolk, is a single-storey house built in 1968, designed so the main rooms overlook the gardens. A paved path around the four-bedroom house leads to a 24ft by 12ft summer house - big enough to double as a studio. The house comes with two reception rooms, a large kitchen/breakfast room and a conservatory. A 15ft study with pine-panelled ceiling has a French door to the gardens. Recently renovated, with new doors and windows, central heating, bargeboards and guttering, it's for sale through Strutt & Parker for £185,000 (01603 617431).



Black Cottage, in High Halden, Kent, is Grade II listed, with a 20ft beamed drawing-room with inglenook fireplace and French doors to the rear gardens. Outside, the gardens include a summer house, a greenhouse, a garden shed, a barbecue and a garage. The 18th-century cottage has four bedrooms (one of which also has an inglenook fireplace) and a 19ft kitchen with a solid-fuel Rayburn. Agents GA Town & Country are asking £10,000 (01580 763636).



The Old House, in Pulborough, West Sussex, is being sold by the professional tennis player Douglas Emery, who is moving with his wife to Australia. The 15th-century Grade II* listed two-bedroom cottage's gardens feature a 14ft by 9ft summer house with views across the Arun valley. But the garden has also given up some historically important relics which are now in Worthing Museum. The house and grounds have been widely illustrated in guides to Sussex. Guide price is £155,000 through Guy Leonard & Co (01798 874033).

style and
mix

The art of stand-up comedy

Kathryn Jackson's three-dimensional collages are a triumph of wit and observation, writes Claire Gervat

In the two-dimensional world of art, Kathryn Jackson's work literally stands out. Her witty three-dimensional paper collages are not only affordable, they are charmingly personal. Each is unique, since it's the personality and interests of the recipient that determine what goes in to it. One of her most recent commissions, for instance, was for Paul Bradley, who plays Nigel in *EastEnders*, who had a scene of the video shop and Queen Vic with a market stall in front

commissions, because people put such a lot of time and effort into making their partners happy," she says. "It's great to see that side of life." She has no doubts that romance is alive and well, and cites as fairly typical the man who gave his wife a scene of the Empire State Building with a small plane trailing a banner with "Marry me?" on it as a wedding present, to remind her of where he'd proposed.

The price for such sympathetically individual art is more than reasonable. The smallest pieces cost from £20 to commission, with the more usual-size scenes in 16-in-square frames costing £600. Ready-made works in her small gallery in the Oxo Tower building in London cost less than this; the smallest are priced at around £125.

Kathryn began making her 3-D collages at Maidstone College, where she was doing a graphic design degree. After graduation, she worked for six months for a small graphic design studio in Camberwell, south London, but soon found herself making so many collages for friends and anyone else who asked her that she decided to become self-employed. Some time later she was looking for a new studio space, and saw a sign advertising rooms for craftspeople and designers in the Oxo building. She became one of the first tenants, and is plainly delighted with her glass-fronted gallery with its spectacular view of the river.

The gallery has a small sample of her previous work, though she admits it's not as large as she would like, as she hasn't had time to replenish the stock. Among the pieces on display is one of the Taj Mahal, but when I ask her whether she's been to India she roars with laughter. "I've been to the library," she confesses. "They think I'm the best-travelled person in southwest London, because I get out all these books on Hong Kong and India."

That said, she has been abroad a great deal. The models she made for the opening credits of the BBC2 programme *The Travel Show* were created with the help of her collection of sketch books from past journeys in Italy, the south of France and elsewhere. The BBC is not the only commercial organisation to appreciate her talent for creating genuinely witty work. Past clients include Harvey Nichols, for whom she abandoned her attachment to strange types of paper in order to make a window display entirely out of food.

A breadstick horse has a limited shelf life and is not an obvious present, but the same cannot be said for Kathryn's paper collages. Witty, personal and an easily kept secret until the last minute, they are, like diamonds, for ever ... but a great deal less expensive.

Kathryn Jackson is at The Cube Gallery, 11 Oxo Tower Wharf, Barge House Street, London SE1 9PH (tel: 0171-401 8118; mobile: 0973 419272).

as his leaving present from the show. Another client, an opera-lover whose wife doesn't share his passion, ordered a scene of the two of them in a box with him watching the stage and her reading *Hello!*

In order to produce one of her imaginative pieces, Kathryn first needs to know what it is for - a wedding present, a birthday, a retirement? - along with as much information as possible about the planned recipient and his or her interests. She also asks the giver to collect items that could be incorporated into the final piece: eg airline tickets, perhaps, for a frequent flier. Indeed, she often uses unusual bits of paper such as old banknotes, bonds and passports in her work; a scene of San Gimignano in Tuscany, for instance, was made entirely out of local wine labels. Once that's done, it takes Kathryn about two or three weeks to produce the final piece, since she may be heavily booked up with commercial work.

What impresses her in particular are the efforts her customers make to ferret around for things and keep the whole idea of the gift a secret. "I enjoy doing private



Back to collage:
recent work by Kathryn Jackson includes "View from the Rialto Bridge" (far left, top), "Money Laundering" (far left, bottom), and a sunbathing lobster to illustrate the zodiac sign of Cancer (left)

15/INDOOR

THE INDEPENDENT
SATURDAY 11 APRIL 1998

A gem of a course

Soldering, hallmarking ... Sally Staples learns the art of jewellery making

One of the attractive aspects of jewellery making is the range of materials on offer. Some of the most stunning designs are worked in copper and brass, so there is no need to spend a fortune stocking up on silver, gold and precious stones to learn the basic techniques.

In a bustling jewellery workshop at a West London Adult Education College, students were working on everything from copper wire to sea and freshwater pearls. In one corner Valerie Woodcock had carefully crocheted red and gold wire into a traditional neck choker and then made a small cap to match. The cap, she explained, could be lined with material and turned into an elegant evening bag.

Across the bench from Valerie, Kaori Whalley displayed a necklace made from more than 100 natural pearls hanging from a silver chain. Her friend Mimi Antoine was patiently working at a pyrex bangle on which she intended to rivet 96 tiny seed pearls.

One student was polishing a tiny gold heart while another was labouring over a simple Cabochon ring. This jewellery-making course runs for three terms in 10-week blocks and accepts both experienced students and complete beginners who are able to work at their own pace.

Tutor Jenny Gilchrist starts the beginners off with a lesson in how to make a band ring. They will learn how to anneal metal to make it soft enough to shape and are taught how metal should be cut. Half-round pliers are used to bend the strip of metal until the two ends overlap and the band can then be adjusted to fit and cut accordingly. Finally the band is soldered.

Valerie, a housewife, is now working on Cabochon ring which has involved setting a stone into a tiny gold circle which will then be soldered on to the silver band. "I love jewellery and I'm really here to make some pieces for myself. Some of the students give them as presents and some produce work that is good enough to sell," she says.

One of these is Christine Holmes, who works part-time for an antique dealer threading ancient beads and re-stringing pearls and spends the rest of her time designing ornamental pieces in precious metals, such as the silver bowls inlaid with pearls which she sells for between £200 and £300. On the course, she has just completed some one-off rings in silver and moonstone and freshwater black pearls.

Anissa Hajjai is passionate about her jewellery, and although it is now only a hobby, she has ambitions to set up a shop and sell her work one day. She is working on a silver handle around which she wants to twist a gold thread and attach coloured stones.

"I like the work so much," she says. "It's very challenging and quite technical. There is a chance to be artistic but there is much more to making jewellery than having a nice idea. I can't draw so I design things in my head and then see if they will work, but I often change my ideas as I go along."

As the course progresses, students will learn about working with sheet metal as well as covering piercing, drilling, embossing, mark-making with hammers and heat-treated surface textures. They will be taught how to work with wire and make basic chains and links.

Next come traditional soldering techniques: students will learn how to size and fit ring shanks and cover techniques relevant to settings for Cabochon stones and very basic gemology. There is also a lesson on sterling silver, some precious metal theory and the practicalities of hallmarking, as well as wire work, demonstrating knitting and crocheting techniques.

Tutor Jenny Gilchrist provides students with a comprehensive list of what jewellers need in their tool kit and they are encouraged to start building up a basic collection of clamps, saw-blades, a selection of pliers, reverse-action tweezers, a tapered handfile, needle files, a torch and a bench peg. Most of these items are less than £10 each.

"Jewellery offers something for everyone," says Jenny. "And I think a lot of the people who come on the course use it as a form of therapy. You don't have to be a perfectionist to make a good piece, but the perfectionists do tend to go for small and intricate designs."

Students can continue to work through three levels of jewellery making over a series of 10-week blocks until they have achieved enough credits for a London Open College Federation Certificate. But for those who just want to have fun, a 10-week course involving three hours a week costs £50. Jenny's course is run by Kensington and Chelsea College (0171-573 3600). For information on similar courses, contact local education authorities and colleges of further and adult education.

THE INDEPENDENT
3 Bougainvilleas
for just £16.95

These amazingly brilliantly coloured Bougainvilleas are just the very plant to brighten up your summer display and give your patio or conservatory that magical Mediterranean feel. They are simple to grow and care for and will give you a display of blooms to be proud of. The plants will be delivered to you from mid-May onwards and come already strongly growing in their own pot. All you have to do is decide on the planting site, re-pot your Bougainvilleas and let nature provide you with a breathtaking display of sparkling bloom. Each pack contains one each of pink, lime and orange varieties.

At the end of summer/winter under cover, cut back the growth by 50% and put outdoors again in the spring when the danger of frost has passed.

How to order
Spalding (01775) 762345 for
enquiries and 24-hour credit card
order service OR
fill in coupon quoting your Access/Visa/
Mastercard number or send with crossed
cheque/PO, NO CASH please, to:
THE INDEPENDENT BOUGAINVILLEA
OFFER, P.O. BOX 50, SPALDING, LIN-
COLNSHIRE, PE11 3SX
DESPATCH WILL BE FROM MID MAY
ONWARDS. Offer subject to availability
UK mainland readers only.
Offer closes 15/05/98.

Please send me _____ Pack(s) at £16.95 each
I enclose my cheque/PO (address on back) made payable to:
Newspaper Publishing ING158, or please debit my
Access/Visa/Mastercard account with the sum of £_____
My card number is:

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS. Expiry date: _____
Signature: _____
Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms/Ms
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Orders to THE INDEPENDENT BOUGAINVILLEA OFFER
P.O. BOX 50, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE, PE11 3SX.
If you do not receive a copy of our next issue within four weeks of ordering, we will refund your money.

Reg. in England 1902067 Newspaper Publishing Plc.

DON'T MISS TOMORROW'S
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY
TRAVEL

AROUND THE WORLD BY BIKE

Pages of great holiday ideas
for you and your
two-wheeled friend

plus: A short stay in Antwerp



YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE TO HOLIDAYS

A Ford by any other name...

Ford hopes Lincoln will give its new car more kudos, says Gavin Green

Ford has unveiled the replacement for its ugly, slow-selling Scorpio big car. And it won't be called a Ford.

Instead, Ford will reintroduce the Lincoln name, which in America stands for big, conservative cars (typically aimed at old people) and in Europe, so Ford research suggests, stands for not very much at all. Lincolns haven't been sold in Europe since the Thirties and are probably best known here for typically supplying various US presidents with transport – including John F Kennedy on that fateful day in Dallas.

The new car – the LS series – goes on sale early next year, after its debut at this week's New York Auto Show. It comes in two model guises, the LS6, powered by a 3.0-litre V6 engine, and the LS8, powered by the same 3.9-litre V8 engine used in Jaguar's XJS and XKR models.

There's rather a lot of Jaguar pedigree in the Lincoln. The LS shares the same floorpan, suspension, V6 and V8 engines and transmissions as Jaguar's upcoming mid-sized executive car, codenamed X200, which is to be unveiled at this October's Birmingham Motor Show and which will hit British streets early in 1999.

However, the two cars share no exterior or cabin components. "Nothing that you can see or touch will be common," says Ford's president, Jac Nasser. "The common component is all invisible. They also feel completely different to drive." Although the suspension and engine are shared, they are tuned differently. Both cars use aluminium suspension and use a new Ford five-speed electronic automatic gearbox.

The Lincoln LS6 in effect replaces the V6 version of the old Scorpio and should sell the UK for about £25,000. The LS8 will cost about £28,000 and will be the cheapest luxury V8 car sold in Europe. Equipment levels will be impressively high, and the car will be sold on its roominess, comfort and value for money. "The goal is to compete with BMW and Mercedes, and to do that, the LS has to be as good as those cars. We're confident that it is," says Nasser.

Scorpio production ceases in July. Last year, only 20,000 were made – less than a tenth of the production volume obtained by class rivaling models made by BMW and Mercedes.

Ford reckons the mass-market name (Ford) is a serious turn-off to those sporting Mercedes-type money, and is gambling that the Lincoln moniker will have more kudos. It will certainly have more exclusivity. Ford expects to sell only about 20,000 LS a year in Europe. America will be far the biggest market.

The hideous styling of the Scorpio was another major sales turn-off. The Lincoln is a far more conservative-looking thing. Apart from its bulk – it is more than 10ft long – and its BMW-copy nose, it is discreetly anonymous. Britain and Germany, so Ford expects, are likely to be the two biggest European markets.



Anonymous: the conservative new Lincoln



Conceived as a latter-day Lotus Elan, the new MX-5 excels for wind-in-the-hair thrills

The Lotus eater

Road test Mazda MX-5, by John Simister

Remember your first MGB? Top-down two-seater motoring, wind in the hair, a world temporarily free of cares; a peculiarly British world, because it's here that most two-seater sports cars, of which the MGB was the most numerous, were created.

Italy has produced a few, too. And Japan has produced a few more. Yes, just when we Brits had forgotten how to do it, up popped the Mazda MX-5. It was much the same idea, brought up to date and with a little bit of Lotus Elan mixed in for good measure, but this time it was guaranteed to work and keep on working, which was where the old BL interpretations weren't so hot.

Not surprisingly, the Mazda has been a huge sales success. And now, nearly nine years on – more than twice the production life of a normal Japanese car – there's an MX-5 Mark Two. It's as well, really. Once other carmakers, including the current custodians of the MG name, realised that people hadn't fallen out of love with sports cars after all, we ended up with quite a selection to choose from. Against these newer rivals, the MX-5 has been seeming dated. Good grief, it may even be heading for that automotive rest-home known as the world of classic cars. Certainly there's the culture to support it, with MX-5 clubs all over the world. In Japan, where it's called the Eunos Roadster, the car is almost a cult object.

At first glance, this new version looks much like the old one. The pop-up headlights have gone, the former side-light and indicator unit having grown to include the headlights as well, and there's no longer a crease running around the car's midriff. Instead, we find a subtle squeezing of contour along the lower flanks to give a soft-edged, zig-zag reflection of light, and a squatter, more muscular stance.

But – how could they? – the designers have replaced the pull-out chrome door handles, copied from an old Alfa Romeo Duetto, with boring modern ones. Apparently, the old handles broke fingernails.

The theme remains retrospective inside, with cowled circular air vents resembling the nozzle of a hair-dryer, but it feels more solid and looks more expensive. This applies to the whole car; the structure is stiffer, and the shudders over bumps are fewer. The hood's rear window is now of heatable glass instead of scratchable plastic, and the boot is now just small instead of laughable.

This new-found solidity does wonders for the driving experience, because it has allowed Mazda to modify the suspension. The changes are subtle, but the effects are dramatic.

Even its greatest fans have to concede that the old MX-5 could turn twitchy in a fast bend or on a wet road.

It was fun if you felt heroic, but hard work if you weren't in the mood.

All that has gone. The new MX-5 feels much more stable, more tolerant of skill shortcomings. But this has been done without damage to the interactivity, the sportiness; the fun is enhanced, but the fear has gone.

The new car is faster, too. There are still two twin-cam, 16-valve engines to choose from, but the 1.6's power has risen from a feeble 88bhp to 110, while the 1.8 delivers 140bhp instead of 130. Both are good-looking engines – these things matter in a sports car, you know – with a pair of cast aluminium cam covers just like an old Lotus Elan's. And they seem eager to play, especially the 1.8. A sweet, swift gear change, activated by possibly the shortest, sharpest-shifting gear lever in mass-produced existence, helps the engine to sing.

This new MX-5 is the best sensible-money, everyday-practical sports car you can buy. Britain may have had the original idea, but Japan has made it work properly. So what's new?

Mazda MX-5 1.8iS
Price: £8,775
Engine: 1,839cc, 16 cylinders, 16 valves, 140bhp at 6,500rpm. Five-speed gearbox, rear-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 127mph, 0-60 in 7.8sec, 28-33mpg.

Rivals
Alfa Romeo Spider: £23,305. Terrific wedge-shaped styling, fine pedigree, but expensive. Structure flexes over bumps, too.
BMW Z3 1.9: £21,400. US-built, looks fasted than it is: a shade over-styled. Less fun than Mazda.
Fiat Barchetta: £15,825. Cute looks, full of retro details, but hatchback underpinnings take away sporty edge. Price close to MX-5 1.6S; left-hand drive only.
MGF: £7,995. Mid-engined layout gives huge roadholding, but it feels less intimate than Mazda to drive. Cabrio is plasticky.

Still worth taking for a spin

Second-hand MX-5s have kept their value, reports James Ruppert

Since the launch of the Mazda MX-5 in 1990, more than 430,000 have been sold world-wide.

The arrival of a brand-new model does not necessarily devalue the old one. UK sales have run at record levels for two years, and such is the demand for the MX-5 that second-hand imports have flooded in from Japan.

A few years back, if you fancied a spot of sporting open-air motoring

there wasn't much choice. Mazda's MX-5, which combined the looks of a Sixties Lotus with the reliability of their dull 323, inspired a host of imitators.

Provided the car has been looked after, and has a comprehensive main agent service history, there is little cause for concern. The only confusion occurs with special editions with questionable cosmetic additions.

Checking a used MX-5 is easy. Full service history, no bodywork damage and an intact hood are all good signs. However, a complication has been the increasing numbers of Eunos Roadsters – the Japanese name for the MX-5. Bought cheaply in Japan for £2,000 to

£5,000, they seem like good value, fitted with CD player, air conditioning and sometimes even an automatic gearbox.

However, the rust protection is of a lower standard than European cars, some parts are going to be harder to get, and the service history may be patchy. Certainly they require some work to meet MOT regulations.

One thing the MX-5 does not do is depreciate; since the early Nineties it has been hard to buy any model below £8,000. Pinewood Mazda had two 48,000-mile 1.6 models. The 1990 car cost £10,495, the 1991 £1,000 more. Brand new, they cost only £14,000. No wonder Japanese imports are popular.

As for classified ads, the dealers don't always advertise the model as a Eunos Roadster, which legally they should. Longbridge in Croydon, with cars starting at £7,995, settles on Mazda Roadster. Autotek Imports had a 1993 30,000-mile 1.6 with air-conditioning, at £8,950; whereas a UK specification example would cost at least £12,000.

To find a cheaper non-Eunos, try a private classified ad. I discovered that £7,500 would buy me a slightly scruffy 1990 model with 60,000 miles.

For used MX-5s you can pay a lot of money and face a bewildering choice. But one thing is certain: the original MX-5 is a thoroughly modern classic.

MOTORING

Citroën	
Name: TD SA Estate Car	Vidette Blue
47,100 miles	1,200
£12,995	1,200
1997	1,200
1998	1,200
1999	1,200
2000	1,200
2001	1,200
2002	1,200
2003	1,200
2004	1,200
2005	1,200
2006	1,200
2007	1,200
2008	1,200
2009	1,200
2010	1,200
2011	1,200
2012	1,200
2013	1,200
2014	1,200
2015	1,200
2016	1,200
2017	1,200
2018	1,200
2019	1,200
2020	1,200
2021	1,200
2022	1,200
2023	1,200
2024	1,200
2025	1,200
2026	1,200
2027	1,200
2028	1,200
2029	1,200
2030	1,200
2031	1,200
2032	1,200
2033	1,200
2034	1,200
2035	1,200
2036	1,200
2037	1,200
2038	1,200
2039	1,200
2040	1,200
2041	1,200
2042	1,200
2043	1,200
2044	1,200
2045	1,200
2046	1,200
2047	1,200
2048	1,200
2049	1,200
2050	1,200
2051	1,200
2052	1,200
2053	1,200
2054	1,200
2055	1,200
2056	1,200
2057	1,200
2058	1,200
2059	1,200
2060	1,200
2061	1,200
2062	1,200
2063	1,200
2064	1,200
2065	1,200
2066	1,200
2067	1,200
2068	1,200
2069	1,200
2070	1,200
2071	1,200
2072	1,200
2073	1,200
2074	1,200
2075	1,200
2076	1,200
2077	1,200
2078	1,200
2079	1,200
2080	1,200
2081	1,200
2082	1,200
2083	1,200
2084	1,200
2085	1,200
2086	1,200
2087	1,200
2088	1,200
2089	1,200
2090	1,200
2091	1,200
2092	1,200
2093	1,200
2094	1,200
2095	1,200
2096	1,200
2097	1,200
2098	1,200
2099	1,200
2100	1,200
2101	1,200
2102	1,200
2103	1,200
2104	1,200
2105	1,200
2106	1,200
2107	1,200
2108	1,200
2109	1,200
2110	1,200
2111	1,200
2112	1,200
2113	1,200
2114	1,200
2115	1,200
2116	1,200
2117	1,200
2118	1,200
2119	1,200
2120	1,200
2121	1,200
2122	1,200
2123	1,200
2124	1,200
2125	1,200
2126	1,200
2127	1,200
2128	1,200
2129	1,200
2130	1,200
2131	1,200
2132	1,200
2133	1,200
2134	1,200
2135	1,200
2136	1,200
2137	1,200
2138	1,200
2139	1,200
2140	1,200
214	

**HOW I HOAXED
NEW YORK**
William Boyd
talks to
John Walsh
MAGAZINE



**NUREYEV,
THE GREATEST
MALE DANCER**
Why his legend
should be left alone
ARTS, PAGE 18



**THEY CAN'T
SAY NO**
Why some gay
men come
unstuck
FEATURES, PAGE 16



**THEY DIDN'T
STAND A CHANCE**
David Aaronovitch
on being third class
on the Titanic
COMMENT, PAGE 21



THE INDEPENDENT

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

The search for a new beginning in Northern Ireland has been haunted by history. By David McKittrick in Belfast

ALL OF the participants in the Northern Ireland peace process went to the Stormont talks with the hope of finding a new Ireland, a new agreement for the new millennium. But behind every table stood a ghost; along with a commitment to peace they were haunted by the legacy of centuries of religious strife.

Take the Irish Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern. He left the talks for a time on Wednesday to bury his 87-year-old mother, Julia. Born in 1911, she often told the family about growing up in west Cork during the south's troubled passage towards independence. Bertie's father was a member of the 3rd Cork brigade of the IRA. In later life Mrs Ahern would tell tales of bow the Black and Tans shot all the turkeys on the family farm and how, during the civil war, Free State forces would come to their home and "turn it upside down" because it was regarded as a republican household.

Bertie Ahern has always been a constitutional nationalist, vehemently denying that the IRA of today are the legitimate heirs of the republican forces of the 1920s. Nonetheless folk-memories and family recollections have played an important part in moulding even his generation of southern politicians.

This week he found himself negotiating with northerners whose lives have been more deeply and more recently touched by violence. The purpose of the enterprise was to find a new political dispensation to supersede the imperfect arrangements of the 1920s.

There has never been such a wide-ranging negotiation involving so many points of the political compass, and rarely has such a sense of a historic new beginning been generated.

Mr Ahern found himself coming to grips politically with, for example, Jeffrey Donaldson, one of the Ulster Unionist party's chief negotiators. Mr Donaldson still remembers learning in 1970, when he was seven, that a cousin had been killed by the IRA. An RUC constable, he was one of the first policemen killed in the Troubles.

Also in the talks was Gerry Adams, who is used to accusations that he has been a supporter of violence. But his family too has suffered: a nephew was savagely killed by extreme Protestants in the mid-1970s, while his niece's husband died, also at the hands of loyalists, in January of this year. Others in the Sinn Fein delegation, perhaps even a majority of them, have been to jail.

Across the table from them were delegations associated with loyalist paramilitary groups. These also contained people who have lost loved ones, and who have taken life: four of the loyalists there yesterday have killed at least six people, and spent time behind bars as a consequence.

In one sense it was time well spent, for most of them emerged

from the Maze prison changed people, disenchanted with violence and hungry for politics. One of them killed two men and threatened my life, actions which, in the 1970s, were the stuff of paramilitary politics; today he has a deep and genuine longing to have done with war.

It is the sight of conversions such as these, in which hard men learn the hard way about the facts of civilised political life, that give most hope for the future.

How did we get to this point?

The purely political parties, excluding Sinn Fein and the loyalists, had been talking together on and off since 1991, when Peter Brooke as Northern Ireland Secretary first brought them together. Those early efforts seemed to come to nothing, although it can now be seen that valuable groundwork was laid for later advances.

It was John Hume, leader of one of the few parties which has never been overtly or covertly involved with violence, who years ago set out the conceptual framework for the talks. He maintained that they should deal with three key sets of relationships: those between Unionists and nationalists in Northern Ireland; those between north and south; and the east-west relationship between Britain and the island of Ireland. Its strength was that it was an agenda designed to cope with the facts of history and geography.

John Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew brought the parties together again in mid-1996, but they became bogged down in procedural trench warfare and made little headway.

Then came Sinn Fein. After the July 1997 renewal of the IRA ceasefire, Tony Blair moved swiftly to bring the republicans into the talks, and to set a deadline for their completion. Rev Ian Paisley, who walked out as the republicans walked in, will now oppose the agreement, as he has opposed all past deals.

But crucially David Trimble stayed, though at no point have his party members negotiated with or even spoken to Sinn Fein members. The talks moved slowly, and not as the Government would have wished, but despite difficult moments they did not fall apart.

Until this week they tended to take the form of specifying rather than productive negotiation, with parties almost endlessly rehearsing their cherished beliefs rather than suggesting compromises. It is a fair bet that without the Government's insistence on a deadline, they would have continued to rehearse them for many more months.

A particularly bad period came at the turn of the year, with some important republican figures breaking away from the IRA and four of David Trimble's 10 Westminster MPs pressing him to quit the negotiations.

Deeper trouble followed when the assassination of loyalist leader Billy Wright by republicans brought a wave of

loyalist violence which included the shooting of Gerry Adams's relative. At that point, attention focussed on the Maze jail, where Mo Mowlam went to calm loyalist prisoners, rather than in the talks; worryingly, politics seemed for a moment to have lost their primacy.

But the talks resumed on schedule, though the progress of negotiations was halted by disputes which led the temporary expulsions first of one of the loyalist parties and then of Sinn Fein. The two governments also produced a paper which was sharply rejected by both Sinn Fein and the IRA: a later draft was however more favourably received by republicans and nationalists, and the talks stayed on track. A particular outcry was caused when a loyalist attack on a bar in the previously peaceful Co Armagh town of Poyntzpass killed two men, Philip Allen and Damien Trainor. A Catholic and a Protestant, they were lifelong friends whose relationship transcended political dispute. The poignancy of their deaths generated momentary despair, yet it did not deflect the course of the talks.

By this time, the outline of an eventual settlement had become clear. A new devolved assembly would be set up in Belfast, while a north-south council would

link the two parts of Ireland. A new concept, that of a British-Irish council, would connect devolved institutions in Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff.

The new deal would include measures to protect civil and political rights, promote equality, and go on to consider the issues of policing, prisoners, the justice system and arms de-commissioning. In total, this amounted to a new political geography of these islands which would address Hume's three-cornered concept.

But while the outline was clear enough, its vital details – as the events of this week showed – remained stubbornly unresolved. Arguments continued over arrangements for the assembly and its relationship with the north-south council. Unionists advocated a modest assembly and an even more modest north-south body; the assembly, in their view, should have no legislative powers and no cabinet to run it, while the north-south institution should be merely consultative.

Over the months Sinn Fein delegates played their cards close to their chest, favouring a strong north-south body but refusing to admit publicly that an assembly should be part of any deal. This seemed illogical in that any cross-border institution would have to be anchored in a Belfast assembly,

but it made sense politically in that it meant the republicans gave no hostages to fortune and made no concessions.

The SDLP and Irish government pursued agreement much more actively. They advocated a strong assembly with legislative as well as administrative powers, to be run by a new cabinet-style administration including both Unionists and nationalists. They argued for a powerful north-south body with

On the Unionist side, however, a number of the negotiators readily contemplated cooperation with constitutional nationalists such as the SDLP, but balked at the idea of ever working with Sinn Fein. A few months ago, Unionist negotiator Ken Maginnis, for example, described Sinn Fein as "unreconstructed terrorists" declaring "I could never give cognisance to them, not as long as I live."

The useful thing was that all

Delegates complained that its stark Sixties design offered no intimate hidey-holes for private politicking. In the meantime, most politicians tended not to mix, while the bar was found unappealing. Comparing it to an RUC interrogation centre, Gerry Adams called it "Castlereagh with coffee".

But not all the business was done at Stormont, with both Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern receiving a flow of visitors to London and Dublin. Adams went to Downing St several times, but a much more frequent visitor was David Trimble. The Prime Minister knew that no deal could be arrived at without the approval of the Unionist leader, and set out to win his trust. He appears to have succeeded in this – which was no mean feat, since Mr Trimble's precise thought processes all along remained a mystery even to some of his closest associates in his own party.

One of the few moments of levity came earlier this month when Mo Mowlam announced that so much progress had been made that the deadline had been advanced. This turned out to be an April fool's joke; in fact the story of this month has been one of hold-ups and apparent setbacks.

The talks chairman, George Mitchell, was to produce his working paper on Friday of last week, but it was not until the early hours of Tuesday that it emerged from his office, the delay signifying much behind-the-scenes disagreement.

Once it arrived, however, the paper served its purpose of confirming the shape of yesterday's agreement while leaving key details open to last-minute renegotiation. By this stage, Sinn Fein had become the dog that didn't bark: republicans seemed to accept a clearly partitionist document with something approaching approval, with the noisy objections coming instead from the Trimble Unionists.

Yet even as the Unionists complained, it seemed they were coming to terms with the new political contours laid out in the Mitchell document. The demand was for changes to the document, not the scrapping of it, and it served as the basis of the final burst of negotiation.

In the final days Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern arrived, bringing with them the political muscle to dislodge the parties from their treasured positions. They have been days and nights of hard pounding, but they have ended in success. The spectre of all that unresolved history lay heavily on everyone, but in the end it proved not strong enough to overcome the spirit of peace and the desire to put an end to war.

Symbol of hope: The peace statue in Craigavon Bridge, Londonderry

Photograph: Ian Torrance

There have never been negotiations involving so many points of the political compass, and rarely has such a sense of historic new beginning been generated

wide powers and enough independence to thwart any moves by a Unionist-dominated assembly to neuter it.

Behind the arguments lay two very different philosophies. A strong consensus had developed within Irish nationalism that any settlement which excluded Sinn Fein would, in the words of a former Irish government adviser, not be worth a penny candle.

The parties became familiar with the details of each other's positions. The problem was that the talks remained stuck on the point of each party's preferred options, with no one sure how far others were prepared to move.

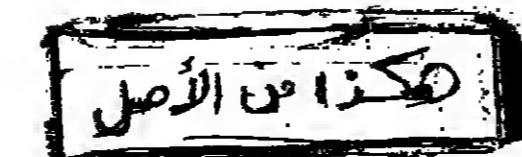
The talks building itself has been no help to negotiation. A modified civil service office block within the sprawling Stormont estate in east Belfast, it is characterless, cheerless and boxy.

15% OFF A NEW HOME THIS EASTER. (NO MORTGAGE NECESSARY.)

VISIT OUR STORE BETWEEN THURSDAY 9TH APRIL AND MONDAY 13TH APRIL AND GET 15% OFF ALL HOME FURNISHINGS
ON THE 4TH FLOOR: BRING THE CHILDREN TOO, AS THERE'S 15% OFF ALL KIDSWEAR. BUT PLEASE, NO ESTATE AGENTS.

SELFRIDGES

*Offer excludes services, clothing, furs, Dolomite bed linen, Children's shirts and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts/offers. Store closed Easter Sunday.



Hill rebuilding defences of fortress Kingsholm

RICHARD HILL has spent the last two and a half years of his sporting life falling ever deeper in love with the rumbustious rugby city of Gloucester, which is remarkably forgiving of a man whose playing visits to Kingsholm invariably reduced him to the status of a human doormat on which eight gnarled and thoroughly nasty Cherry and White forwards would make a point of wiping their size 12s. Even now, the sheer ferocity of the place makes him wince. "Two local sides, Longlevens and Spartans, used our training ground for a cup semi-final the other day," he says. "I couldn't bear myself to watch it. Far too squeamish."

If he were being honest, he would agree that the parlous condition of Gloucester RFC circa October 1995 made him feel queasier still. Having spent his entire grown-up career as a wildly successful scrum-half with Bath and England, winning John Player Cups, Pilkington Cups, Courage league titles, Triple Crowns and Grand Slams by the baker's dozen, he suddenly found himself clutching the smelly end of the West country stick. Needless to say, the aroma was distinctly agricultural.

And in truth, Hill himself was partly to blame for Gloucester's bout of mid-decade depression. "I think you can trace their demise to the 1990 cup final, when Bath stuck the best part of 50 points on them," he acknowledges. "It was a fair old stuffing, one way and another, and I remember them being in bits after the game."

The whole city had made the trip up, the sun was shining and they were having a whale of a time. Then the game started and it was curtains within minutes. The club took a rapid nosedive after that and spent the next few seasons shuffling around at the bottom.

Thirty tough months on, "Glaasterrrr" have left the bottom far behind, as it were; indeed, they would be challenging for a coveted place in the

For a former hero of Bath, Richard Hill has found himself surprisingly at home at rivals Gloucester. Chris Hewett met him

Heineken European Cup if Heineken Cup places were still a going concern. Their away form may alternate between the abject and the appalling – the Cherry and Whites tend to travel by team hearse rather than team bus – but Hill's resourceful, one-step-at-a-time brand of coaching has given them back their Kingsholm pride. As Newcastle, the Premiership title favourites, may well discover to their cost this afternoon, the famous old ground is once again an absolute pig of a venue for a visiting team when the heat is on.

Gloucester's one and only home defeat of the season was inflicted by Harlequins, of all people – "They were doing all this high fives business at the final whistle, which kind

want to do. I think I'll need all the time that is currently available to me."

"I'm not a great one for sudden success, the quick fix; even as a player I went about things very methodically, stage by stage and piece by piece, making sure things were right before moving on to the next task."

"I look around me and I see clubs trying to get everything done yesterday. If it's not working perfectly, they scrap it; there's a definite culture of 'Sod the second team' or 'Sod

"We brought in the necessary personnel, simple as that," says Hill. "The old stories about Gloucester forwards still hold true. I could go out to Matson or Coney Hill, or over to Cheltenham, or across to the Forest of Dean and pull in fit, hard, quality forwards with the capacity to make a fist of it at professional level."

"But backs? They're a different matter around these parts. The forwards spent years working their fingers to the bone, only to find the threes throwing hard-earned possession away. It must have been soul-destroying for them. I decided very early that given the money, I would go further afield for our backs."

"The presence of Richie Tombs, Terry Fanoula, Philippe Saint-André and the rest has, in turn, brought more out of the pack. Take Pete Glanville, for instance, or Simon Devereux. They were honest grafters, loose forwards who could play a destructive game with the best of them. Now, though, they play some football as well. They create. I'd like to think this Gloucester side has more strings to its bow now, particularly at home."

"Agreed. I had to move a few players on when I arrived and some of them were very familiar faces who had been tremendous servants for many years. But I've gone about this from the bottom up, tried to develop a strong work ethic and our sense of togetherness is such that with the possible exception of Charlie Mulraine, a third-string scrum-half who went to Moseley, we haven't lost a single player we would rather have kept."

A glance at the Kingsholm team-sheet reflects both new and old Gloucester. The first-choice pack were all born and bred in the city with the exception of England's new tight-head prop, Phil Vickery, who was imported from Cornwall. Outside, though, there are four England A backs from all points of the compass, supplemented by a Frenchman, an Australian and a South Sea Islander.

As usual, though, Hill preaches caution. "We can still undo the good work and finish the season on a downer," he warns. "The job is half-done. I'd say. No more than that. I'm contracted here for another four seasons and if I'm going to see this through, as I very much

want to do, I think I'll need all the time that is currently available to me."

"I'm not a great one for sudden success, the quick fix; even as a player I went about things very methodically, stage by stage and piece by piece, making sure things were right before moving on to the next task."

"I look around me and I see clubs trying to get everything done yesterday. If it's not working perfectly, they scrap it; there's a definite culture of 'Sod the second team' or 'Sod

'There's a culture of "Sod the second team". When these clubs start struggling no one will want to know'



Coach in touch: Richard Hill awaits Newcastle's visit

Photograph: Mike Egerton/Empics

Chapman brings inspiration to leave Bristol floundering

By David Llewellyn

Richmond 43
Bristol 3

mond forwards who provided the thunder with Chapman's bolt of lightning. Bath on Monday is suddenly a mouthwatering prospect.

The Richmond forwards set the pattern of events with a try within 90 seconds. A well-worked line-out move saw the lock of the day, Craig Gillies, take the throw on the line and return the ball instantly to hooker Barry Williams, who neatly slipped it to Craig Quinnell cutting to the front at pace. He steamed over unopposed.

Bristol's only points came from a Paul Hull penalty shortly after, but then Allan Bateman touched down after rugby's equivalent of a Texas scramble and Richmond were away. Another line-out move followed, this time the Richmond captain, Ben Clarke, caught the ball after opting once again for the touch kick instead of going for goal, but normal service was resumed as Quinnell rumbled over for his second.

Then Chapman took over. A 22-metre drop-out saw the outstanding full-back, Matt Finn, break clear, he fed Chapman and the Richmond flier needed no further help as he

scorched upfield. His best try, and his longest, came in the second half after Richmond's other wing, the immensely talented Spencer Brown, had gone over from close range. Finn ran it from deep in his own 22, then spun a long pass out to Chapman. He left two men floundering and accelerated over the 10-metre line. A change of gear and he took on two more Bristol tagboats before powering on to touch down having covered fully 70 metres.

The winger completed his hat-trick five minutes later from close range. With the help of the fly-half, Adrian Davies, who converted four of their seven tries, Richmond drew to within two points of their highest League score of the season and have hauled themselves into a more comfortable mid-table position for the time being.

Richmond's only points came from a Paul Hull penalty shortly after, but then Allan Bateman touched down after rugby's equivalent of a Texas scramble and Richmond were away. Another line-out move followed, this time the Richmond captain, Ben Clarke, caught the ball after opting once again for the touch kick instead of going for goal, but normal service was resumed as Quinnell rumbled over for his second.

Then Chapman took over. A 22-metre drop-out saw the outstanding full-back, Matt Finn, break clear, he fed Chapman and the Richmond flier needed no further help as he

scored.

After Chapman's first try, Bristol's

prop, Steve Ojomoh, joined the

Richmond line-out.

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

mense Garry Johnson, crossed,

Richmond's other wing, the im-

Sarajevo
savoury
Gusco
gaffe

Good old days of Bovril on tap and leaky loos



THE GAFFER TAPES

APPARENTLY HRH Phil wants to see a World Cup match. What, I wonder, brought on this sudden interest in football? It's not as if he's been a regular down at the Old Cornfield. Not that we're taking it personally, it's not as if he goes to Old Trafford, the usual haunt of glory-hunters, or Elm Park, Windsor's local league ground, either.

It's not even as if Greece are in the World Cup. He may just be pinching a ticket from one of the Tartan Army on the basis that he is the Duke of Edinburgh but how often has he been to Tynecastle or Easter Road, or seen the Jocks at Hampden? But then, nice as Easter Road is – especially at this most appropriate time of year – it's hardly Paris in June.

At least William and Harry have been to see the odd League game, you may recall William having an afternoon at the Old Cornfield. He certainly does, he still has the mental and physical scars to remind him. Apparently he has never forgotten it, whenever he threatens to turn up wearing Doc Martens and Kangol rather than a suit and tie the Palace threaten to make him go again.

Phil the Greek's conversion is, I suppose, the final proof that football has moved away from its working-class constituency. Next thing we know there will be Earls and Barons buying up clubs, and I don't mean Robbie and Jim.

Well, we at the Old Cornfield do not intend to forget football's illustrious past. We are working on a new lottery application for a luxury Heritage Stand. It combines the conveniences of the modern game with the traditions of the old. Each seat will have Bovril on tap (guaranteed BSE-free) and a complimentary packet of Woodbines, a wooden rattle and a flat cap on a string – so you can get it back after throwing it in the air after a goal.

At least William and Harry have been to see the odd League game, you may recall William having an afternoon at the Old Cornfield. He certainly does, he still has the mental and

physical scars to remind him. Apparently he has never forgotten it, whenever he threatens to turn up wearing Doc Martens and Kangol rather than a suit and tie the Palace threaten to make him go again.

To really capture that sepia-toned spirit we'll provide small boys to be passed over the audience to the front (they'll actually be small tailors' dummies, you can't see what sort of deviants we may attract otherwise); a Tammy which doesn't work; special toilets where it flows all over your feet; and an old bloke sitting behind who keeps saying 'course, Raich Carter would've slaughtered this lot.'

We're expecting a big middle-class uptake on this which we hope will see spin-offs at the club superstore. We're trying to negotiate a sponsorship deal with someone like Ikea or Laura Ashley which would involve every fan, sorry, customer, getting Goal Points for every purchase at the ground which could be redeemed at their shop.

To kick off the promotion we're going to give every fan an Easter egg today but the police put the kibosh on it. They said they might be used as missiles. Instead we're handing our Easter bunnies though I'm not sure the lads at the Graveyard End, resolutely working-class, are going to be too impressed.

Of course, a lot of issues are settled at Easter but it's not like the old days. I can remember playing four times in four days, all away games. Blackburn then Plymouth. Darlington then Gillington. And we won them all, we cleaned up at the bookies though it rarely covered the spending lines.

Meanwhile, I've had a problem with the local paper, the *Studley Advertiser*. I've had a running battle with the editor ever since he caught me giving his daughter some free coaching one night and now he's got his own back with a front page headline of 'Gaffer held after lewd loo sham'.

Talk about top-spinning a story. I'd been out for a walk in the park, looking at all the schoolgirls, when I was caught

short. Anyway, the public toilets had all this yellow and black tape round them but I couldn't wait so I climbed over to get some relief, so to speak.

Then a cop tells me I'm trespassing on a crime scene. Apparently Stavros George, a pop star, had been arrested a few minutes earlier for a dodgy misdemeanour and I've gone and destroyed the evidence. The plus is two free tickets for Stavros' next concert, the downside is an appearance in court the following morning.

Mizamhile, I've got the runs out today, he's got the runs after eating all his Easter eggs in one session, and as for Shaun Prone, well, his excuse is too daft for words but I've promised to listen without prejudice. If Melinda Messenger's become a Buddhist anything is possible, even Shaun pulling a muscle on an extra training run.

Billy Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

Pele, Giggs and Billy the goat

Guy Hodgson on the opening of Old Trafford's £4m state of the art museum

IN THE Sixties and Seventies, Manchester United supporters would sing "Charlton is better than Pele". It was the sort of twaddle that should have shamed even the most red-eyed Streford Ender, but who ever accused football crowds of being objective or rational?

Well, Sir Bobby was busy elsewhere yesterday and instead Old Trafford's new museum in the north stand was officially opened by Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pele, to you and me; and somehow nobody felt short-changed.

The scorer of 1,282 goals in 1,365 professional appearances (97 in 111 for Brazil) and now the Minister of Sport for his country took one look at the £4m building and, like much of the rest of the sporting population, gasped. Never mind the football, just feel the corporate might.

"I think Manchester United have become the most important club in the world," Pele said as he toured the three floors of a museum that pushes Old Trafford another few leagues ahead of the rest of the Premiership, "because of their administration and their stock market listing." Brazil, he said, would be aping the commercial machine put in motion by United.

You could understand why United's museum was only eight years old but had become overwhelmed by demand. Some 192,000 visitors a year had the seams of the structure groaning and the club confidently expect more people will be drawn to the new attraction.

Around 30 million people annually are expected to shop at the new Dumbarton Shopping complex nearby and surely some will be siphoned off to



Main exhibit: The great Pele opens the new Manchester United museum at Old Trafford yesterday

Photograph: Owen Humphreys/PA

pay the £7.50 entrance fee that will include a tour round the ground as well as a chance to wallow in nostalgia.

Those statistics are impressive, but so is the museum.

The Man-U-Net, an encyclopedia of the club that can be accessed from 18 terminals, includes details of 5,000 matches, 1,000 players and 5,000 goals. Every player has a hi-

ography and a record of appearances – Ryan Giggs alone has 36 video clips dedicated to him and 105 pictures – and, if the blurb is to believed, it would take more than a week to explore it fully.

Elsewhere, Peter Schmeichel has donated his entire medal collection to the exhibits while the most unusual display is the stuffed head of the one-

time club mascot, Billy the goat. It was kept as a pet in his backyard by the former captain Charlie Roberts and met its sad demise after United's FA Cup final victory over Bristol City in 1909 when it succumbed to too much beer in the post-match celebration.

Sir Bobby Charlton has given a substantial collection of his own trophies, including his 1966

World Cup winner's medal, which is comfortably beaten by Pele's contribution, the temporary loan of the medals he won in the World Cup finals of 1958, 1962 and 1970.

Pele never played at Old Trafford although he had been here before, typically in this commercial age, to film an advertisement.

After endorsing Brazil's bid

for the 2006 World Cup and hoping that, if the tournament comes to Europe it ends up in England – you would never guess he was a politician now would you? – he was asked who was the United player he admired most.

"Michael Owen," Pele replied. "Ouch! On the day United were meeting Liverpool too."

Referee banned after farce in Prague

Czech Republic

IT may not come as much consolation to the likes of Joe Kinnear and Les Ferdinand, who have both been vocal on the subject recently, but it is by no means only English referees who are coming under increasing scrutiny.

A referee, Karel Vidlak, and his two assistants have all been suspended after several controversial decisions in last weekend's Czech League derby between Sparta Prague and Slavia Prague, which ended as a 1-1 draw.

A Czech Football Association commission gave Vidlak a four-game ban and one assistant, Jiri Vodicka, a two-game suspension.

The heaviest penalty went to the other assistant, Petr Petrik, who was suspended for nine matches, including two games from a previous suspended punishment.

"Poor decisions clearly influenced the outcome of the game," the FA said. Vidlak

awarded Sparta a penalty – which was missed – for a foul which television replays showed was well outside the area. Sparta's late equaliser came after Petrik had failed to give an apparently clear offside decision.

After the match, which left the league leaders Sparta with a 10-point advantage over Slavia with only seven fixtures left, furious Slavia staff called for action against the officials and suggested that matches between top teams should be in the control of international referees – an idea the Czech FA rejected.

Brazil

THE famous Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro will host its first international in nearly five years later this month.

The huge old stadium, which once had the largest capacity in the world when it was in better repair, will host a friendly between Brazil and Argentina on 29 April. The na-

tional team last played there in September 1993, when two goals from Romario earned a 3-0 win over Uruguay and a place at USA 94.

The Rio clubs that have used the Maracana since then are now playing elsewhere, in protest at inflated rents. The stadium faces an uncertain future, owing to lack of use and its decrepit state.

The Rio clubs that have used the Maracana since then are now playing elsewhere, in protest at inflated rents. The stadium faces an uncertain future, owing to lack of use and its decrepit state.

Since 1993 and their last competitive home game, Brazil have played all their friendlies in smaller cities, which have provided financial guarantees and regular full houses.

The venues have included the Amazonian jungle city of Manaus and small provincial towns like São José do Rio Preto and Teresina.

Mexico

FANS in Mexico are bemoaning the state of their national team before the World Cup finals. In the last game of a South American tour on Wednesday, Mexico were thrashed 5-1 by a Chilean club side, Universidad de Católica. They were also beaten 3-1 by the Argentinean team, Boca Juniors.

A Paris court has fined 26-year-old Stéphane Lecam 800 francs and banned him from all football stadiums for six months. To make matters worse for him, his side lost the final on penalties to Paris St-Germain.

Mexico had won the final ConcaCaf qualifying round.

"We fired Bora and put in Lapuente for this? This is unacceptable," Valente Aguirre, the president of the First Division club, Leon, said.

The fans, who call their side the "Tri" after the three colours in the Mexican flag, are now calling the team the "Tricentenario."

Lapuente remains defiant, however. "Everything is still according to plan," he insisted.

France

A BORDEAUX fan caught trying to smuggle flares into the Stade de France for last weekend's League Cup final is the first Frenchman to be banned from the World Cup finals.

A Paris court has fined 26-year-old Stéphane Lecam 800 francs and banned him from all football stadiums for six months. To make matters worse for him, his side lost the final on penalties to Paris St-Germain.

SIDELINES

Close neighbours are worlds apart



BRENTFORD and Fulham are separated by a short stretch of river and 15 places in the Second Division table. Unfortunately for Micky Adams, who has been at the helm of both clubs this season, today's derby rivals are oceans apart in terms of financial muscle.

Adams, having steered Fulham out of the Third Division on a shoestring, barely dipped into Mohamed Al Fayed's millions before being sunk by the arrival of Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins (whose father George and brother Graham played for Brentford). Since joining the lower-budget Bees after a brief stopover at Swansea, he has been back up the Thames for Danny Clulip, Paul Watson and Glenn Cockerill, his assistant and 38-year-old midfield powerhouse.

The man who brought Adams to Fulham, Jimmy Hill, was a forward in their days as perennial strugglers in the old First Division and returned as chairman in 1987 just in time to keep them at Craven Cottage. Yet it was Brentford, where the hardened one played for three years from 1949, who launched his uniquely wide-ranging career.

Among the huddling TV pundit's team-mates there was the future England manager, Ron Greenwood, who also won a championship medal with Chelsea before they were reunited at Fulham. Others who have moved between Griffin Park and the Cottage include Roger Cross, Barry Lloyd, Fred Callaghan and Terry Bullivant. Like Hill and Greenwood, all went into management.

Ten things that Tottenham's Algerian Moussa Saib might be missing today



- 1 The capital Algiers, located in a Mediterranean bay and in the shadow of the mountains.
- 2 The Martyrs Monument in Algiers, a 92-metre high concrete memorial which dominates the skyline.
- 3 Algiers' Medina area of narrow alleys and old buildings. A confusing place where a French influence can be detected.
- 4 Kebabs. Although there's no shortage of places to buy a doner in N17 or on Green Lanes.
- 5 The beach at Zeralda.
- 6 The ski resort at Chrea, 50 miles south of the capital and 1,510 metres above sea level.
- 7 The off-the-beaten-track coastal town of Tizi Ouzou, where nothing disturbs the sleepy atmosphere and few outsiders choose to visit.
- 8 Constantine, the town described by Alexandre Dumas as "an eagle's nest perched on the summit of a crag."
- 9 Many gorgeous gorges.
- 10 Roman ruins in almost every town.

NAME OF THE GAME No 30: GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY

Gainsborough played 564 Football League games – against opponents including Manchester United and Arsenal – before they failed to win re-election in 1912. The Lincolnshire club, who today play in the Unibond League, were formed out of the Trinity Recreation Society, which was founded in 1872. Their inspiration was Canon Hodgkinson, a well-known sportsman in the town who was associated with the local Trinity Church. The footballers were known as Trinity Recreationists and Gainsborough Trinity Recreationists before the name Gainsborough Trinity was adopted in 1888. The club's first recorded match produced a 2-0 victory against the Trent Club, who turned up with only 13 players for what should have been a 15-a-side game.

THIS WEEK

On 9 April 1988, Liverpool and Nottingham Forest met in the semi-final of the FA Cup at Hillsborough.

Kenny Dalglish saw his side win, courtesy of two goals from John Aldridge. Nigel Clough scored for Forest, but it was not enough to keep his father's team in the cup.

Liverpool were immediately installed as hot favourites to complete the double, and, as they were 11 points clear at the top of the First Division and due to meet lowly Wimbledon at Wembley, no-one could really see how they would fail.

The day after the semi-final win over Forest, John Barnes was voted the Player of the Year by his fellow professionals. The strength of the Liverpool side was emphasised by the fact that Barnes' closest challengers for the award were his team-mates Steve McMahon and Peter Beardsley. (The PFA's Young Player award went to Newcastle's Paul Gascoigne, incidentally.)

Liverpool went on to take the title comfortably in May, but were unable to do the double. They lost the Cup to the Crazy Gang.

United ended the season with a run of seven successive victories, finishing with wins over Coventry, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Blackburn and Wimbledon. Norwich and Villa took only seven and 10 points respectively from their last seven games.

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Hems, Paul Newman. Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. e-mail address: sport@independent.co.uk



Lens' 3-0 victory over Stade Rennais on Tuesday leaves them three games from their first French championship. Today they play Lyon in the semi-final of the French Cup. Not bad for a town smaller than Macclesfield or Stevenage.

A tiny town beats the moneybags

John Lichfield reports from Lens, who are in sight of a French cup and league double

(IT IS a wet, weekday evening in Lens, a grey day in a small, grey town. But, in the Stade Bollaert, home of the Racing Club de Lens, all is raucous, passionate joy. Mexican waves; organised, rhythmic chanting; a Brazilian-style drum section; a fans' band with a possible trumpet soloist ("Amazing Grace; the Saints"). The Lens supporters are a wet night's entertainment in themselves.

And the football is pretty good too. The fervour for *Les Sang et Or* (the blood and gold) was once fuelled by a bitter pride in a devastated region and a sincere passion for football which is rare in France. In those days, the

Lens fans would sing of their under-achieving heroes: "On a perdu mais on est heureux" (We've lost but we're happy).

Abruptly, the red and yellow hordes have something to sing about. Their 3-0 victory over Stade Rennais, amid the cacophony on Tuesday night, put them three games from their first championship. If they defeat Lyon in the French Cup semi-final today they will be on course for an extraordinary league and cup double.

Extraordinary because Lens, in the Pas de Calais, 50 miles from the Channel Tunnel, is smaller than Macclesfield or Stevenage and has a population of 35,000. The Stade Bollaert holds 42,000, 20 per cent more

people than the town. (The stadium has been entirely rebuilt for the World Cup as a concrete and glass replica of Highbury. Arsenal fans who procure tickets for the England v Colombia match on 26 June will feel, bizarrely, at home.)

This is not, in truth, the story of a French Wimbledon or a French Blackburn Rovers. *Les Sang et Or* have been a major French club, on the cusp of honours, for years. They attract fans from across the stricken industrial belt of the Pas du Calais and Nord and from as far afield as Normandy and Picardy.

After Paris St-Germain and Marseilles, they are the third-best supported team in France with an average gate of 26,800 this season. It would, nevertheless, be a considerable achievement for a club with a relatively modest budget (£1.2m a year), from a small, depressed town (20 per cent unemployment), to win one of the major championships in European football.

It so happens that their closest rivals, Metz, are also a small town team. Two years ago the *championnat* was won by a wholly bucolic place, Auxerre, in the green depths of northern Burgundy.

How is it that the fashionable moneybags – Paris St-Germain, Marseilles, Monaco – are so often squeezed out by their country cousins?

French rates of taxation



The fans of *Les Sang et Or* – the blood and gold – have a passion for football that is rare in France. The average gate is 26,800, second only to Paris St-Germain and Marseilles

make even the highest gross salaries uncompetitive with Italy, Spain or England so almost all first-choice French internationals play abroad these days. The standard of the French First Division remains high but a well-run provincial club with a squad of good, mostly home-produced players and a clever manager can win the title.

Racing Club de Lens fit the bill on all three counts. The principal difference this year has been the new coach, Daniel Leclercq, 49, a former player brought back from obscure retirement as a football-cum-tennis coach in a nearby village to be the youth trainer and then first-team manager.

Leclercq is an unlikely looking soccer supremo, a balding, stooping, chain-smoker with unruly wisps of blond hair, a disorderly beard and mournful blue eyes. After Tuesday's important victory he said his players were "désolés" (desolate or sad) that they had not played better. Leclercq looked desolated; the players did not.

Home and away Racing Club play an aggressive 5-2-3 formation, or perhaps 4-1-2-3. The advanced sweeper is the excellent Frédéric Déhu, a target for Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers and a host of others. At any moment, the midfield two can become five, six or seven.

The attacking guile is produced by three bought-in stars, Vladimir Smicer, from the Czech Republic, Ante Drobak, from Montenegro and the club's record signing at £1.7m, Tony Vairelles, from Nancy. Almost all the rest of the squad is home-grown.

Lens could cause a few surprises in the Champions League next year – if they hold on to their players. There is the rub. Among the 35,000 spectators on Tuesday were Alex Ferguson, Roy Hodgson and the representatives of nine other British, Italian and Spanish clubs. Apart from Déhu and Smicer, transfer targets include

a tall, fast, powerful, skilful midfielder from Cameroon, Marc-Vivien Foé. Martel had a brief post-match conversation with the club's clever, abrasive president, Gervais Martel, 44, a local free-newspaper millionaire. The very presence of a foreign journalist seemed to put him in a bad mood. He hates the Parisian and foreign press treating Lens as a bunch of surprising provincial hicks and he hates the menacing presence of all those foreign scouts in the stands. Martel believes that Racing Club are not giant-killers to be patronised, but sleeping giants about to wake.

"We're not a small club, we're a great club with a great

record. If you English don't know that, you know nothing," Martel raged. "All you English care about is transfers. I'm not interested in transfers. I'm interested only in the next game.

If they [presumably Ferguson, Hodgson et al] want to know about transfers, let them phone me. But I'm not interested."

Martel has hired the firm that built the Manchester United superstore to work the same miracle for Lens to turn that passionate base of supporters into a merchandising gold mine (or blood-and-gold mine). Ownership of the club has been opened up to a consortium of local businessmen, who believe that a successful club can be a

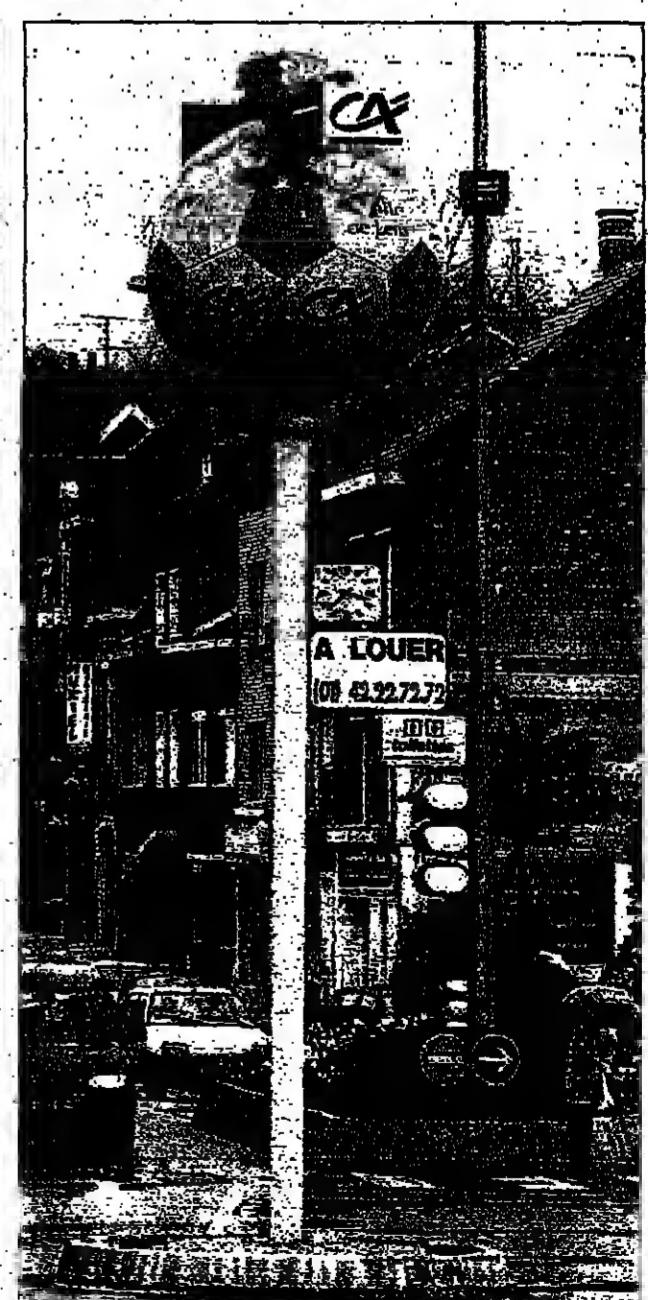
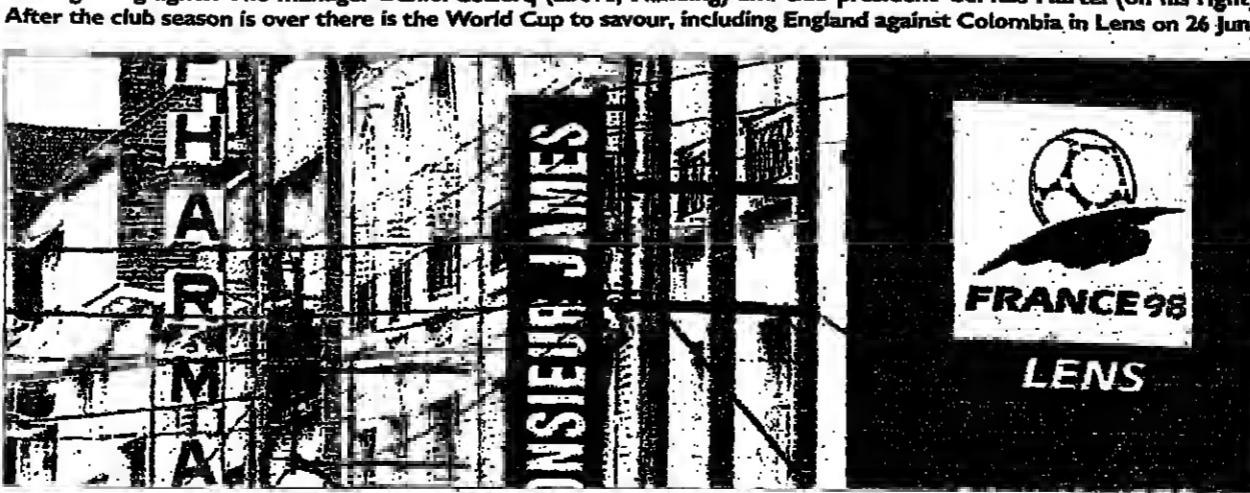
symbol for the renewal of the economy of northern France based on distribution, services and the proximity of five other EU countries.

There is talk of almost doubling the club budget to £20m if Lens make the Champions League next year but this dream could fade if the team is pillaged in the off-season as Auxerre were in 1996.

It may be that success has come to Lens a couple of years too soon, while the club is still developing the financial muscle to compete at the highest level. But there is no point in telling the fans that. They are winning and they are still happy; not at all desolate.



Lens' guiding lights: The manager Daniel Leclercq (above, standing) and club president Gervais Martel (on his right). After the club season is over there is the World Cup to savour, including England against Colombia in Lens on 26 June



Baby boom time for Thompson

The patter of tiny feet has proved a calming influence on a Bolton bad boy with potential. Glenn Moore met him

WHEN Bruce Rioch addressed the media in the first press conference of his brief spell as Arsenal manager he extolled the virtues of family life. Wedded players go out less and look after themselves better he averred. We thought of Paul Merson and a few other hatched Highbury wild men, and wondered if Rioch was living in the real world.

For some, however, his advice held true. Ray Parlour attributes his improved form to a change in attitude following marriage and parenthood and, at Rioch's previous club, Bolton Wanderers, Alan Thompson feels the same.

Rioch was always on at Thompson, an enthusiastic socialiser, to find himself a nice girl. It became something of a club joke until a teammate, David Lee who is now at Wigan, introduced Thompson to his sister. Thompson is now approaching the second anniversary of his wedding to Joanne and enjoying the company of a five-month-old daughter. Although he has still been sent off once since her arrival, at the home of today's opponents, Blackburn, in December, his once-grim disciplinary record is gradually improving as is his dedication off the pitch.

"I'm getting older and wiser," he said when we met after training in Cheshire this week. "It does make a difference once you're married."

It probably helps, too, that his daughter sleeps "from seven at night to six in the morning" and that Thompson appreciates the luxury of a footballer's life for a new father. "It's brilliant," he said. "I can spend time in the morning with her before training and a few hours afterwards."

The timing might also be perfect for his career. Thompson, now 24, has been regarded as promising since the days he was England Schoolboys captain and he is reaching the stage where potential needs to be turned into performance. A goal against Liverpool in the Coca-Cola Cup final a few years ago reminded people of his talent as did another, against the same opponents, which could be named Goal of the Month on tonight's *Match of the Day*. In between, however, many believe he has under-achieved. His international career has stalled after being sent off on his second Under-21 appearance and the days when he was being considered as a late contender for Euro 96 seem long ago.

"I've recommended him to Glenn Hoddle and I'm sure his time will come," said Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, who has moved Thompson from the wing into midfield. "He is beginning to blossom now. He was a bit immature and still is to a degree but he is learning all the time. He is a gifted player and one of those I would always have in my side. He has energy and endeavour, a will and desire to stay in the Premiership with Bolton Wanderers."



Older and wiser: Alan Thompson, now feeling the settling effects of parenthood which could be a boon for Bolton and his England prospects

Photograph: Peter Jay

"He should be our top scorer [he has seven goals to Nathan Blake's 12]. He gets in position but he wants to burst the ball when there are times when you have to stroke it in. He does have great attacking ideas, he wants to get forward, but he always gets back as well."

In some ways it is a miracle Thompson is playing at all. In September 1990, when he was a 16-year-old apprentice with Newcastle United, he broke his neck in a car crash on the A1 while travelling back from a reserve match at Leeds.

"I was," he said, "in a bad way. I had two operations and was out for 22 months. I wore a neck brace for nine months – I had about six of them so I could wash them and so on. I'd just left school and it was a hit worrying."

"My family were a great help. A couple of surgeons said that my ca-

reer was over, but I always thought I would come through. Now I only think about it when journalists ask me."

Of the four in the car, Thompson, though the most grievously injured, is the only one still playing professional football. He came back to play for Newcastle alongside schoolfriend Steve Watson but, after just 16 League games, Kevin Keegan let him go to Bolton for £250,000 in the summer of 1993. Though a wrench to leave – he remains a Newcastle fan and sat with the Toot Army at the FA Cup semi-final – the move gave him first-team football.

"It's been eventful. We've been to the Coca-Cola Cup final, won promotion twice and been relegated once. I'm now the second longest-serving player after Keith Branagan and I'm only 24."

How much longer Thompson will

remain is a matter of conjecture. Having stayed at the club last time they were relegated, he has shown loyalty, but his career is at a stage when it can do without another spell out of the Premiership. "At the moment I just look to stay in the Premier, if that happens I'll be delighted to stay. If anything else happens we'll see at the time. I've still got two years on my contract. Ideally, I want to play in the Premier, every player does. We'll see what happens."

"We are in with more of a shout of staying up than a few weeks ago. Previously, we always looked like conceding goals, but we've gone to five at the back and looked a lot tighter while still creating chances.

"We've also been a settled side recently and we have to maintain that. We are a better team than two years ago and have more depth, but the Pre-

miership generally is better. The gap is getting bigger, we walked Division One last year and it's a hard division to get out."

Thompson's words are echoed by Todd. "We have good players, but we've lacked continuity – some of it our own fault with suspensions caused by stupid sendings-off. It's frustrating, because I feel we would hold our own and be in a better position."

The manager, however, has another grievance. The media is awash with features on plucky Barnsley yet Bolton, in many ways a similar club, are ignored. "I get annoyed by the lack of media attention, or bad media focused on the football club," Todd said.

"We have played our part in trying to win games by playing football. Earlier this season Barnsley were getting thrashed right, left and centre, we were getting draws, holding our own, we must beat them today."

and were not getting the right attention. Even now we're still playing football, but I've been at this club in six years and we've never had the right kind of media. Last season we couldn't do anymore and we got nothing. We've had praise when we've lost games but don't seem to get it when we've won. I know we're not Man United but we're still in the Premiership."

Will this lack of attention mean Thompson will have to move to get international recognition? Todd noted that he himself had been capped at Derby which was not seen as a "glamour" club, but they did win two championships. It is a matter of staying up and building. "If you're regularly in the top six you get noticed even if you're not fashionable," Todd said. The task is thus to emulate Blackburn, but first they must beat them today.

Will this lack of attention mean Thompson will have to move to get international recognition? Todd noted that he himself had been capped at Derby which was not seen as a "glamour" club, but they did win two championships. It is a matter of staying up and building. "If you're regularly in the top six you get noticed even if you're not fashionable," Todd said. The task is thus to emulate Blackburn, but first they must beat them today.

TOMORROW
Bell's Scottish League
Premier Division
Rangers v Celtic (4.00)

A life of drudgery and broken dreams fails to deter Rochdale's faithful fans

WHETHER you are of a religious nature, or whether your religion is football, there is usually some serious business to attend to during Easter. The former will be celebrating one man's rise from the dead and his subsequent ascension into heaven; as for the latter, well, miracles are often called for, too.

In footballing terms Easter is the time of the season when dreams come true or become nightmares. It is a time when fans are either in footballing heaven, or coming back down to earth with one almighty bump. In short, by the time Easter is over you have a pretty good idea whether you're up or whether you're down.

Except, that is, if you're a Rochdale fan. Because apart from 1969, when Rochdale suffered a severe case of vertigo in ascending to the old Third Division (where they stayed for five seasons), the club have never stepped off the lowest rung of the Football League ladder.

For those who need to ask the question: "Where's Rochdale?" – as Coventry's manager, Noel Cantwell, did somewhat dismissively in 1970 before his First Division side were beaten 2-1 in a League Cup tie – a glance at a map will tell you that it lies deep in a



OLIVIA BLAIR
ON A
MIRACLE-FREE
FOOTBALL
OUTPOST

competition (they lost to Norwich in the 1962 League Cup final), but as their chairman describes it, which will keep the club afloat, despite a tawdry League position. Mind you, it has to be prudent considering they have an estimated weekly wage bill of £13,000, the cheapest tickets (£3) in the League and an average home gate of 1,400 (down from the 2,700 average three seasons ago), of which 400 are season ticket holders. It does not take a rocket scientist to work out that gate receipts alone will not suffice.

Of course, on-the-field flair doesn't necessarily have to be sacrificed in favour of off-the-field affluence (as Spurs fans will argue). But when you're as precariously poised as Rochdale you have to cut your cloth accordingly. Hence the reason why highly rated 16-

year-old keeper Stephen Bywater was sold to West Ham earlier this season, even if the fee was far less than the £2m widely quoted. The reality is that Bywater will have to captain England while he's still a Hammer for Dale to reap a substantial reward, and as Wild says, "we all know the chances of that happening".

Bywater wasn't even a regular; his only appearance came in a 6-1 Auto Windscreens Shield thrashing at Carlisle. In fact, Dale's usual keeper, Neil Edwards, a £25,000 signing from Stockport, has been one of the few plus points of a particularly forgettable season.

Still, most of those who witnessed it will still be there when next season kicks off, following Dale's ups and downs, should they be so lucky. Just like the legendary figure who was famous for considering football to be more important than life and death. Asked whether there was truth in the rumour he'd taken his wife to watch Rochdale on his wedding anniversary, Bill Shankly allegedly replied: "It was actually her birthday – I'd never have wed during the football season – and it was her Rochdale, it was Rochdale reserves."

Sons of the Rock and a hard place

THE lot of a Crystal Palace fan may not be a happy one at the moment, but spare a thought for the lowly Dumbarton supporter. While relegation looks ever more likely for Palace, that luxury does not even exist for the "Sons of the Rock" – demotion to the Highland League is a distinct threat these days. Dumbarton are so bad that there is nowhere left for them to go.

The bottom of the Scottish

Third Division is a sad and lonely place, and until last week opponents regarded a trip to Boghead Park as a guaranteed three points, no questions asked. Dumbarton hadn't won at home this season and to be perfectly honest, no one expected them to. Where Palace at least managed an "away" win over their tenants Wimbledon, the Sons hadn't even had the chance to beat their lodgers (they share Boghead with Clydebank, who ply their trade in the nose-bleed territory of the Second Division).

Then, last week, Dumbarton won. But a 1-0 victory over the mighty East Fife saw the Sons make not a new draw, make, and no one is expecting a repeat too soon. Boghead is no theatre of dreams, more a waterlogged music hall of failed restorations. While there is room for 5,500 die-hards (303 of whom can luxuriate in the opulence of the main stand), few realise the footballing delights await-

ing them and consequently nobody turns up. The average attendance is currently about 300, but seems to fall almost weekly. To put things in some kind of perspective, it would take the Sons over 160 games to fill Old Trafford once.

Life at Boghead is not all

doom and gloom, though.

There are moments of glory amid the morass of disaster

FAN'S EYE
VIEW
NO 249

DUMBARTON
BY
JONNIE BAKER

and depression. The last time I watched the mighty Sons was the home cup tie against Premier division Motherwell in January. Expecting a drubbing from our opponents, it was all the sweeter when we pulled off a 1-1 draw. Had the outcome been a home win, it's tempting to wonder if Scottish football might have dissolved into total anarchy. Some things should never be allowed to happen. Lions may lie down with lambs, but the Sons must never win at home (they lost the replay at Motherwell too).

Hope may exist, however,

with the Sons' Italian connec-

tion. Crystal Palace can show

off by appointing Arturo Lombardo as player-manager, but the Sons have got "Il Postino", OK, so midfielder Hugh Ward is not strictly Italian, but he is a fine postman. Surely it is time Dumbarton followed suit and hired a foreign manager – Julio Iglesias or Björn from Abba would be fine.

It hasn't always been so tragic. Dumbarton's history is rich and varied. The first ever Scottish First Division Championship in 1891 was shared by Dumbarton and Rangers, and the Sons won the second outright. They made Graeme Sharp the great player he was and sold him to Everton for £125,000. They even tried to sign John Cruyff – but that fell through when he saw Boghead. Past glories, however, offer little solace when your club is in freefall towards extinction.

A breakaway Premier League will surely spell the end for the Sons – lower league clubs cannot hope to survive without the major guns of Scottish football. Would it be so bad if Dumbarton did slip beneath the icy waters and disappear from the leagues? Well, yes it would. Small clubs will be missed when only the superpowers are left – who will provide the hope of a cup shock, or a quiet chuckle when the results come in on Saturday evening? After all, who wouldn't miss East Fife 5, Forfar 4? Or even Dumbarton 0, Cowdenbeath 3... .

25/FOOTBALL

Major fixtures and points today

Fate and fixtures conspire for Cup dry run

By Phil Shaw

FATE and the fixture computer often conspire to match the FA Cup finalists on the League stage before their Wembley confrontation. What makes today's meeting of Arsenal and Newcastle unusual is that the dress rehearsal has much more riding on it than the big production.

Both clubs are desperate for the points. Arsenal, one defeat in 23 games, because they need to maintain the pressure on Manchester United in the race for the Premiership title; Newcastle, two wins in 18, to stave off a schedule on which Bury and Port Vale replace Barcelona and PSV.

Occupying the runners-up

spot Newcastle have taken for the past two years, Arsenal are embarking on a programme of eight "cup finals" in 30 days. Their success or otherwise will dictate whether they step out on 15 May with the Double still on Arsène Wenger's agenda.

Gruelling as that itinerary is, especially with Martin Keown joining a distinguished list of absences, Arsenal's run-in is not as physically taxing as United's last spring. Remember how Alex Ferguson, forced to play four vital games in nine days, sought an extension to the season? Wenger called his request "ridiculous" and suggested that managers liaise with the FA to avoid a repetition.

Feud for thought, it seemed, yet nothing has

As the season nears its flashpoint, Phil Shaw reports on the quest for points at both ends of the table, while Nick Harris (below) offers a match-by-match analysis

changed and now the boot is on the other foot. The champions have an almost leisurely four matches left, whereas the challengers move on to an Easter Monday battle at Blackburn, who gave United a tougher time than a 3-1 setback suggested in midweek and were the last team to beat Arsenal back in December.

Todays' collision of Tony Adams and Alan Shearer, England captains just and present, promises to be both bone-juddering and decisive. Adams is emerging as a strong contender for the Footballer of the Year award, but in the meantime Ar-

senal won a double of a less momentous kind yesterday.

An unbeaten record during March made Wenger an irresistible choice as Carling Manager of the Month. Highbury's first since George Graham exactly five years ago. The panel, which included Glenn Hoddle, also named the reserve goalkeeper, Austria's Alex Manninger, as Player of the Month for his part in Arsenal's mounting pile of clean sheets.

Newcastle's nadir came when Crystal Palace left with a rare victory at the height of the "Toongate" scandal. Palace were unable to build on that

success and will surely be doomed unless they defeat Leicestershire. While the failure to win a Premiership home game scarcely encourages optimism, they did thump Martin O'Neill's side 3-0 at Selhurst Park in the FA Cup.

The clubs' Palace accompanied out of the First Division. Barnsley and Bolton, however, have evidently winnable home derbies. After four dismissals which will cost them key personnel when they can least afford it, Danny Wilson's side need to temper passion with poise in another volatile atmosphere against Sheffield Wednesday.

Everton drop. Spurs must break the mould against Chelsea, having failed to win any of their last 11 encounters and lost 1-1 at home to them. Gianluca Vialli promises a full-strength line-up as he gears up for the Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final against Vicenza, but ending the sloppiness which was costly at Leeds on Wednesday could prove difficult.

Leeds focused approach and counter-attacking style make them less than ideal opponents for Everton at Goodison Park. George Graham's team have been on song for Europe, winning five out of six either side of their Stansted scare. In Jimmy Hasselbaink, who has now scored as many League goals (13) as John Hartson or Andy Cole, they also possess the

Premiership's in-form striker.

Traditionally, Leeds and Everton fare poorly on each other's ground, although the former's away record is bettered only by the top two. Much may depend on whether Duncan Ferguson can establish aerial ascendancy over David Weathersall, not to mention Uriah Rennie's ability to control the division's two most-booked teams.

When the curtain comes down shortly before five o'clock, Howard Kendall can start planning for a six-pointer at Wimbledon 48 hours later. Since Newcastle go straight from London to a similar show-down with Barnsley, it should be possible by Monday night to distinguish the clubs involved in a drama from those caught in a crisis.

Arsenal v Newcastle

Bergkamp 19
Leading scorer
Last season: 0-1

Barnes 7

Arsenal will be without four first-team regulars as Martin Keown, Lee Dixon and Ian Wright are all injured, and Dennis Bergkamp is suspended. Keown injured his eye in last Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against Wolves and is being kept out today as a precaution, while Dixon will not be back before next Saturday at the earliest. Steve Bould will come in for Keown but Dixon's natural replacement, Gilles Grimandi, is not certain to play due to a back problem. Nicolas Anelka and Christopher Wreh are likely to continue up front as Bergkamp completes a three-match ban.

Kenny Dalglish will not name his side until the last moment, but Robert Lee and Steve Watson both have hamstring trouble and are unlikely to be involved today, although they are likely to come into contention for Monday's game against Barnsley. Northern Ireland winger Keith Gillespie has not trained for the last couple of days and is also a doubt. Dalglish must decide whether to start with John Barnes in midfield or rest him in preparation for Monday's game. Newcastle have not won in their last five Premiership matches.

Barnsley v Sheff Wed

Redfearn 8
Leading scorer
Last season: No fixture

Di Canio 3

Barnsley will be without the suspended trio, Darren Barnard, Darren Sheridan and Chris Morgan. They begin one, three and five match bans respectively, which means Danny Wilson will have to make some defensive changes. Arjan de Zeeuw should return for only his second game since 15 February after being out with a groin injury, while Matty Appleby is likely to complete the three centre-back line-up. Wilson will have to choose between Georgi Hristov and Jan-Aage Fjortoft up front to partner Ashley Ward. Sheffield Wednesday's new Brazilian signing, Emerson Thome, may make his debut. The 26-year-old defender, who was signed for free last month, was an unused substitute for the last two games. The Owls have lost their last four away games, so Ron Atkinson may use three centre-backs - Thome, Des Walker and Goce Sedjovski - in a tactically changed line-up. There could be changes in midfield as well, with the captain, Peter Atherton, beginning a two-match ban. Graham Hyde and Jim Magilton are in contention for returns.

Bolton v Blackburn

Blake 12
Leading scorer
Last season: No fixture

Sutton 20

Bolton have serious defensive problems for today's game. Gethin Burgess and Jimmy Phillips are suspended, while several others are struggling with injury. Chris Fairclough is certain to replace Burgess, but manager Colin Todd has no recognised replacement for Phillips, with Robbie Elliott and Mike Whittle both out for the rest of the season. Todd must also decide who to pair with top scorer Nathan Blake. Bob Taylor has started only once since returning on deadline day, while young Swiss striker Gaetano Gialanza has yet to make a Premiership start. One of them is likely to play today, with Blake's normal partner, Dean Holdsworth, having scored just once in 18 appearances.

Blackburn manager Roy Hodgson has no injury worries for the Lancashire derby apart from the long-term absentee Tim Flowers. Hodgson seems likely to stick with the team beaten 3-1 by Manchester United in midweek, with Swedish striker Martin Dahlén starting on the bench. Rovers have won twice in the last six Premiership matches, while their opponents have won twice since 1 December.

Chelsea v Tottenham

Valli 17
Leading scorer
Last season: 3-1

Gioia 9

Gustavo Poyet is back in Chelsea's squad for today's London derby, six months after suffering a ruptured cruciate knee ligament. The Uruguayan midfielder is likely to be a substitute at best today, but could play a role in next Thursday's European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final against Vicenza. Russian goalkeeper Dmitri Khanna (knee) withdrew from the Chelsea squad yesterday, so Ed De Goey will play. Roberto Di Matteo is likely to feature today, although he will be banned from the European game after collecting a yellow card in the first leg. Frank Sinclair is still out with a thigh injury. Darren Anderson, Les Ferdinand and John Scales are back in Tottenham's squad, but may be on the substitutes' bench. Ferdinand scored two goals in two games for the reserves this week after being out since February with knee and back trouble. Anderson also played in the reserve games after recovery from a long-term groin injury. Scales has not had a first-team chance this year. The manager, Christian Gross, however, is almost certain to persevere with Jürgen Klinsmann and Chris Armstrong up front.

Coventry v Aston Villa

Dublin 19
Leading scorer
Last season: 1-2

York 11

Coventry expect to be unchanged from the side that drew 1-1 at Leicester last week for today's follow-up Midland derby. Darren Huckerby has been under treatment for a groin injury, but is expected to play. Steve Ognovac, 41 in September, will play his 499th League match in goal. Manager Gordon Strachan, still not contemplating in public at least, that his side are in contention for a UEFA cup place, said: "We need two points to avoid relegation. Then we will try to get as many points as possible to see how high we can finish up the league." Coventry are unbeaten in 13 matches in all competitions. Saso Milosevic will not be recalled for Aston Villa after telling manager John Gregory he did not want to stay at the club - despite the fact that it was mainly due to the Yugoslavian that Villa managed to beat West Ham 2-0 last week. Apart from striker Stan Collymore, who is still recovering from a groin problem, Gregory has a full squad to choose from. A win for Villa will also revenge for their FA Cup exit at the hands of Coventry earlier this season, and maintain their upturn in form.

...And statistics

Wenger sings from Graham's Highbury hymn sheet

Arsenal's last five Premiership matches have ended in 1-0 victories and it is now nearly three months since Wenger men conceded a League goal. The Gunners' defence has not been breached in 744 Premiership playing minutes since Dion Dublin's penalty for Coventry at Highfield Road on 17 January as Arsenal have set a Premiership record of eight games - seven victories and a draw - without a goal conceded.

The start of Arsenal's run coincided with Alex Manninger's debut in goal. However, not even his six consecutive Premiership clean sheets were enough to keep out David Seaman when the England goalkeeper returned to fitness.

Arsenal still have some way to go to beat the Football League record, set by Reading with 11 consecutive clean sheets at the end of the 1978-79 Fourth Division season in total. Steve Dean kept a clean sheet in 1,103 minutes. In Scotland Chris Woods was beaten by the posts as Rangers went 11 games without conceding a goal in the 1986-87 season.

Until Arsenal's current run, the record of seven consecutive Premiership matches without a goal conceded had been shared by Everton (1994-95), Tottenham (1995-96) and Manchester United (1996-97 running into 1997-98).

United ended last season with two clean sheets and added five more at the start of the current campaign. John Hartson broke the sequence with his goal for West Ham at Old Trafford on 14 September.

Arsenal and United are well ahead in the table of clean sheets for this season, while Peter Schmeichel has the best Premiership record both this season and overall. The United goalkeeper has kept a clean sheet in nearly half his Premiership matches.

Only three goalkeepers are ever-present in the Premiership this season: Crystal Palace's Kevin Miller, Southampton's Paul Jones and Wimbledon's Neil Sullivan. One other oddity: all eight of Sheffield Wednesday's clean sheets have been recorded at home.

Top of the shot-stoppers

Goalkeepers who have kept 50 or more Premiership clean sheets

	Clean sheets	Apps	Per cent
Schmeichel (Man Utd)	103	216	48
Seaman (Arsenal)	82	193	42
James (Liverpool)	66	188	35
Flowers (Blackburn)	66	218	30
Southell (Everton)	62	207	30
Martyn (Sheff Wed)	56	146	38
Bosnich (A Villa)	52	158	33

* Not including yesterday's Manchester United-Liverpool match

They shall not pass

Premiership clean sheets 1997-98 (minimum 10 appearances)

	Clean sheets	Apps	Per cent
Schmeichel (Man Utd)	15	30	50
James (Liverpool)	11	27	41
Martyn (Leeds)	11	32	34
Kellar (Leicester)	10	25	40
De Goey (Chelsea)	10	26	38
Brangan (Bolton)	10	28	36
Seaman (Arsenal)	9	24	38
Poole (Derby)	9	29	31
Sullivan (Wimbledon)	9	31	29
Flowers (Blackburn)	8	23	35
Bosnich (A Villa)	8	26	31
Pressman (Sheff Wed)	8	30	27
Jones (Southampton)	8	32	25
Given (Newcastle)	7	17	41
Ognovac (Coventry)	7	20	35
Walker (Tottenham)	6	23	26
Forrest (West Ham)	5	13	38
Myhra (Everton)	5	16	31
Watson (Bolton)	5	24	21
Miller (C Palace)	5	31	16
Hedman (Coventry)	4	11	38
Southall (Everton)	3	12	25
Hirstop (Newcastle)	2	13	15
Miklosko (West Ham)	0	13	-

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

	Home	Away	Form	Remaining matches									
M	Pl	GD	W	L	D	F	A	W	L	D	F	A	
1	Man Utd	34	+67	12	1	2	38	9	8	4	5	26	17
2	Arsenal	30	+60	23	11	2	20	9	6	7	2	19	17
3	Liverpool	32	+55	+20	10	2	4	31	5	8	3	24	20
4	Leeds	33	+54	+15	9	3	5	27	17	7	3	23	18
5	Chelsea	32	+51	+23	9	2	3	28	12	7	1	30	25
6	Blackburn	31	+51	+10	10	3	3	35	22	4	5	16	20
7	West Ham	31	+47	+4	11	1	3	22	10	3	2	11	12
8	Derby	31	+45	+3	10	3	3	28	17	2	1	10	11
9	Aston Villa	33	+45	-2	8	3	6	24	21	5	3	21	19
10	Coventry	31											

Coulthard maintains McLaren's grip

Motor racing

By David Tremayne

in Buenos Aires

THE ATMOSPHERE of the paddock was as flat here yesterday as the topography of the race-track in Buenos Aires' Parc Almirante Brown, as much a contrast with the Brazilian Grand Prix a fortnight ago as was the performance there of the McLarens and the Ferraris.

At Interlagos all the talk was of protest and controversy, as the Italian team argued successfully against its British rival's unusual braking system. Here, however, it is as if everybody is on their best behaviour, aware perhaps of the tarnish that has marred Formula One's global image since the controversial outcome of the Australian Grand Prix in March.

Yet, as the McLaren chief,

Ron Dennis, carefully continued to play down the dominance of his silver cars, the World Championship leader, Mika Hakkinen, who has become something of a human disaster area when it comes to public speaking, amused his audience while trying to outpsyche his competitors. "I don't think they can catch us," Hakkinen snarked cheerfully, blaming illness for his apparently morose expression in the immediate aftermath of his Brazilian triumph. Vowing to work harder still to maintain the edge that has garnered him an eight-point lead in the drivers' championship, he concluded: "Unless the regulations are changed, or something like that, it will take a miracle to catch us."

As far as past and present champions Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve are concerned, that miracle may be round and black and



Mika Hakkinen prepares for yesterday's practice session

Photograph: Daniel Luna/AP

have the name Goodyear stamped on the side. In an effort to get on terms with the Bridgestone tyres used so successfully thus far by McLaren, Goodyear has responded with

a wider front tyre bore to give better front-end grip.

"I expect to make a step forward here which may even give us a chance to get between the McLaren guys," Schumacher said.

"We had to take steps back-

wards at the beginning of our car's development because of a problem with the reliability of the exhaust system. That cost us some performance, which we expect to get back in time for Imola in two weeks. Goodyear is working hard and making improvements."

Heinz-Harald Frentzen, Williams' team-mate at Williams, suggested that it might be the middle of the season before the modifications come on stream. "I'm not interested in waiting for mid-season before we get on terms with McLaren," Schumacher said. "I want to get the job done earlier."

The German used a combination of the new tyres, a more powerful engine and a high-downforce rear wing to good effect yesterday when he set the fastest practice time of the morning as his partner, Eddie Irvine, split the Williams duo.

Details, Digest, page 24

Menu still the man to beat

By Nick Phillips

LAST YEAR'S dominant partnership of Alain Menu and Williams-Renault will be the combination to beat again, when the British Touring Car Championship swings into action at Thruxton on Easter Monday.

This time, however, the competition is much better prepared with four of the other seven manufacturers involved already able to match or beat the Renaults in pre-season testing.

The Series organiser, Toca, has also introduced a raft of rule changes which bring with them compulsory pit-stops and Indy 500-style qualifying sessions. Add in a handful of appearances later in the season from Nigel Mansell and the mix looks appetising.

The man most likely to beat Menu, on pre-season form is Honda's James Thompson. The 23-year-old Yorkshireman is the youngest driver in the field, and he is not afraid to tip himself for the drivers' championship.

Thompson's confidence is based on more than the impetuosity of youth. The Honda Accord which he drives has been one of the best cars in the BTCC for the past two seasons and now, with Prodrive - the team which took Colin McRae to the World Rally Championship - in its second year of running the project and fully settled in, it promises to become the title aspirant's weapon of choice.

Joining the Renaults of Menu, and his aggressive young team-mate Jason Plato, and Honda at the front of the field is likely to be Volvo where regular race-winner Rickard Rydell has a new team mate in a refugee from the high-profile world of Formula One, the Italian Gianni Morbidelli. Rydell said: "We've been testing together quite a lot and he's been good to work with."

Their S40s look to have hit top form just in time for Monday's race. The gap to the rest is small though and Nissan, Audi and Peugeot have all shown the potential to win races, while Vauxhall and Ford both also look in much better shape than they did last year. In short no one can be dismissed out of hand.

Steer speed will out be the only factor. As Thompson says: "This year, even if you have the quickest car, you might not win the race." That is because of the new rules, which make big changes to the race formats. As before there will be two full-points rounds at each meeting (26 rounds in all), but the first race each weekend (the Sprint) has been shortened and will have a grid decided in the Ode-Shot Showdown, an Indy-style one at a time single-lap shoot-out.

The second race (the Feature) will be longer and have a grid decided conventionally, but during it each driver must pit and change two wheels.

The idea is to shuffle the pack, so that the same names are not always at the front, and to introduce an element of strategy to the races. That will be further encouraged by a modification to the points system which gives every driver who leads the race an extra point (only one per driver, per race).

The chances are that it will be Renault, Honda or Volvo drivers who triumph on Monday's races, but it is no foregone conclusion. If the rule changes have the desired effect they will really have to work for their glory and the spectators will be the real winners.

1998 ENTRY LIST: 1 Alan Menu Renault; 2 Jason Plato Renault; 3 Peter Kormendi; 4 Rickard Rydell Honda; 5 James Thompson Honda Accord; 7 John Cleland Vauxhall; 8 David Leslie Nissan Primera GT; 9 Tim Harvey Ford; 12 Yvan Muller Peugeot; 14 Mark Luney Vauxhall Vectra; 15 Matt Neal Honda Accord; 16 Mark Lester Honda Accord; 17 Roger Moore Honda Accord; 18 Steve Soper Ford Escort; 19 Tom Coronel Ford Escort; 20 Thomas Jochemsen Opel Vectra; 21 Tony Longmore Ford Escort; 22 Gianni Morbidelli Volvo; 23 Anthony Reid Nissan Primera; 24 Grant Hardwick Ford Escort; 25 Paul Morris Ford Mondeo; 26 Niccolo Leonardi Fiat Tempra; 27 Steve Jackson Ford Mondeo; 28 Matt Neal Honda Accord; 29 Mark Neal Nissan Primera GT; 30 David Leslie Vauxhall Vectra; 31 John Cleland Vauxhall Vectra; 32 Will Hoy Ford Mondeo; 33 Colin Jackson Ford Mondeo; 34 Peter Kormendi Ford Escort; 35 Matt Neal Ford Mondeo; 36 Niccolo Leonardi Fiat Tempra; 37 Steve Jackson Ford Mondeo; 38 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 39 Mark Neal Nissan Primera GT; 40 David Leslie Vauxhall Vectra; 41 John Cleland Vauxhall Vectra; 42 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 43 Mark Lester Ford Escort; 44 Tony Longmore Ford Escort; 45 Steve Jackson Ford Escort; 46 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 47 Mark Lester Ford Escort; 48 Tony Longmore Ford Escort; 49 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 50 Peter Kormendi Ford Escort; 51 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 52 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 53 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 54 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 55 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 56 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 57 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 58 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 59 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 60 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 61 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 62 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 63 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 64 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 65 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 66 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 67 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 68 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 69 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 70 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 71 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 72 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 73 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 74 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 75 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 76 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 77 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 78 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 79 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 80 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 81 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 82 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 83 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 84 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 85 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 86 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 87 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 88 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 89 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 90 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 91 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 92 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 93 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 94 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 95 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 96 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 97 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 98 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 99 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 100 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 101 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 102 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 103 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 104 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 105 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 106 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 107 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 108 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 109 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 110 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 111 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 112 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 113 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 114 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 115 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 116 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 117 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 118 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 119 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 120 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 121 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 122 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 123 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 124 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 125 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 126 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 127 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 128 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 129 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 130 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 131 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 132 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 133 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 134 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 135 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 136 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 137 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 138 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 139 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 140 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 141 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 142 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 143 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 144 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 145 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 146 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 147 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 148 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 149 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 150 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 151 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 152 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 153 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 154 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 155 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 156 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 157 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 158 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 159 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 160 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 161 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 162 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 163 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 164 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 165 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 166 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 167 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 168 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 169 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 170 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 171 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 172 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 173 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 174 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 175 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 176 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 177 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 178 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 179 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 180 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 181 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 182 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 183 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 184 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 185 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 186 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 187 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 188 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 189 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 190 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 191 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 192 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 193 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 194 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 195 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 196 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 197 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 198 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 199 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 200 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 201 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 202 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 203 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 204 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 205 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 206 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 207 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 208 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 209 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 210 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 211 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 212 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 213 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 214 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 215 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 216 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 217 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 218 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 219 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 220 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 221 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 222 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 223 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 224 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 225 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 226 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 227 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 228 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 229 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 230 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 231 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 232 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 233 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 234 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 235 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 236 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 237 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 238 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 239 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 240 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 241 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 242 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 243 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 244 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 245 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 246 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 247 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 248 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 249 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 250 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 251 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 252 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 253 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 254 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 255 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 256 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 257 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 258 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 259 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 260 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 261 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 262 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 263 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 264 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 265 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 266 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 267 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 268 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 269 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 270 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 271 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 272 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 273 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 274 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 275 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 276 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 277 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 278 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 279 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 280 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 281 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 282 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 283 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 284 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 285 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 286 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 287 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 288 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 289 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 290 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 291 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 292 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 293 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 294 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 295 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 296 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 297 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 298 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 299 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 300 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 301 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 302 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 303 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 304 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 305 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 306 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 307 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 308 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 309 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 310 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 311 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 312 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 313 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 314 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 315 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 316 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 317 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 318 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 319 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 320 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 321 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 322 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 323 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 324 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 325 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 326 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 327 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 328 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 329 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 330 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 331 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 332 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 333 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 334 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 335 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 336 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 337 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 338 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 339 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 340 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 341 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 342 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 343 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 344 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 345 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 346 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 347 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 348 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 349 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 350 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 351 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 352 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 353 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 354 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 355 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 356 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 357 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 358 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 359 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 360 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 361 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 362 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 363 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 364 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 365 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 366 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 367 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 368 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 369 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 370 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 371 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 372 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 373 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 374 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 375 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 376 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 377 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 378 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 379 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 380 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 381 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 382 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 383 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 384 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 385 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 386 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 387 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 388 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 389 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 390 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 391 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 392 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 393 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 394 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 395 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 396 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 397 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 398 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 399 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 400 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 401 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 402 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 403 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 404 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 405 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 406 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 407 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 408 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 409 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 410 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 411 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 412 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 413 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 414 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 415 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 416 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 417 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 418 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 419 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 420 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 421 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 422 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 423 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 424 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 425 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 426 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 427 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 428 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 429 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 430 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 431 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 432 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 433 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 434 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 435 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 436 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 437 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 438 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 439 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 440 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 441 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 442 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 443 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 444 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 445 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 446 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 447 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 448 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 449 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 450 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 451 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 452 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 453 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 454 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 455 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 456 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 457 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 458 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 459 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 460 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 461 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 462 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 463 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 464 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 465 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 466 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 467 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 468 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 469 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 470 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 471 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 472 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 473 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 474 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 475 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 476 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 477 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 478 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 479 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 480 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 481 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 482 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 483 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 484 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 485 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 486 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 487 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 488 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 489 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 490 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 491 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 492 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 493 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT; 494 Matt Neal Nissan Primera GT;

